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Government inspector's airport decision due soon

By Marijke Cox
 marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A DECISION over controversial plans to expand Lydd Airport is expected next moth.

Two years ago, Shepway District Council approved the expansion despite strong opposition and recommendations that the plans be rejected.

But the Government's planning inspector stepped in due to doubts surrounding the development and an eight-month public inquiry was held last year.

Supporters and opposition are now holding their breath as they wait for the impending final decision.

Environmentalists are standing against the plans, warning that unique wildlife would be destroyed.

An RSPB spokesman said: "It would destroy the natural tranquility of Dungeness and could see its remarkable wildlife slowly disappear, poisoned by increased levels of pollution, or simply driven out by the massive disturbance that such a large airport would cause."

But bosses at Lydd Airport and MP for Folkestone and Hythe Damian Collins said it would give the area's economy a much-needed boost.



Mr Collins said: "Shepway as a whole, and the Romney Marsh in particular, badly needs to attract more investment and jobs. Romney Marsh is already a deprived area, with little opportunity for employment."

CHARITY

Vince aims to run rings around Downton Abbey for charity

A ROMNEY Marsh man is preparing to run a gruelling 10k to raise vital funds for Parkinson's UK – just a week after running the London Marathon.

Vince Crouch, whose father has the illness, is hoping to raise £2,000 for the charity.

The run is taking place on Sunday, April 29, at 10.30am at Highclere Castle in Berkshire. It is the setting for ITV's

period drama Downton Abbey.

The 45-year-old said: "My Dad, Ken, was diagnosed with Parkinson's six years ago and as soon as I found out about the Run Highclere event I wanted to take part.

"I'm running the London Marathon this year so running a 10k just one week later will be a challenge, but one I'm looking forward to as I've heard the

atmosphere at this event is second to none.

"Parkinson's UK is a very personal charity to me which is why I chose this local race; I've also never been to Highclere Castle, so it will be great to take part in a run through the grounds. I've set myself a target of raising a couple of thousands of pounds for Parkinson's UK over the coming year, which will hope-

fully be helped by my supporters when I take part in this event in April."

Director of fundraising at Parkinson's UK Paul Jackson-Clark said the charity was incredibly grateful to Mr Crouch for his support. "As the UK's Parkinson's support and research charity we're leading the work to find a cure, and we're closer than ever. But our work is totally dependent on donations."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Al Murray at Quarterhouse

THE Pub Landlord, Al Murray, is coming to the Quarterhouse as part of his The Only Way is Epic tour.

The comedian will take to the stage at the Tontine Street venue on June 20 and 21 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £15.

To book tickets go to www.quarterhouse.co.uk.

CHARITY

Get involved in Sport Relief

THE Sport Relief Mile is returning to Folkestone and organisers are inviting people to take part.

Runners will set off from The Leas Bandstand on Sunday, March 25. Entrants can choose to complete one, three or six miles. To enter see www.sportrelief.com.

CRIME

Man jailed for drug offences

A MAN has been jailed for five years from trying to smuggle £48,800 of heroin through the Channel Tunnel.

MIKEY Battles, 36, of Limerick, Ireland, was stopped at Coquelles in France on January 4 last year. Cannabis worth £37,100 was also found.

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PLANNING

Protestors fear green spaces will be left to mercy of developers

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

MORE than a third of Kent's countryside faces the threat of becoming an urban sprawl under the Government's proposed changes to the planning system, say environmentalists.

The warning comes from Protect Kent, the county's branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), which released a map revealing huge swathes of unprotected beauty spots.

Around 39 per cent of the Garden of England's stunning countryside is not designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), nature reserve, Green Belt or other preservation area, meaning there is little or no protection from development under the proposed National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Campaigners said the Government needs to recognise the wider, undesignated countryside in the draft document before it is passed.

Head of planning at CPRE Fiona Howie said: "We are not seeking a national policy to prevent all development.

"But if we are to avoid damaging the character of rural areas by making it easier for inappropriate, speculative building to take place – a bungalow here, a distribution shed there – decision makers must be encouraged to take account of the intrinsic value of the wider countryside when considering development proposals.

"The imminent changes to the planning system should ensure it is not only specially designated areas that are valued."

The new map reveals large swathes of undesignated countryside in areas such as the Romney Marshes, south Maidstone, Tonbridge, Sittingbourne, Deal, Sandwich and Gravesend.

North Thanet was highlighted as having 74

per cent of undesignated countryside.

Spokesman for Protect Kent Jamie Weir said the county was known as the Garden of England due to the beautiful green landscape.

"Yet 39 per cent of this is completely unprotected against inappropriate development," he added. "If the NPPF should pass unchanged we could find that this countryside is open to more threats in the future.

"CPRE Protect Kent would urge ministers to help ensure that these beautiful landscapes are protected for future generations to enjoy."

Ministers have argued that proposals to simplify the planning system – which includes slashing 1,000 pages of policy down to just 52 – will boost growth and give communities more say in their area.

But CPRE's Ms Howie said it would be easier for developers to challenge local plans if there was no central support.

"It would be risky to rely solely on any local protection for the wider countryside, the status of which is extremely uncertain," she said.

"Without national support, any protection local plans give to the wider countryside is likely to be challenged by developers."

But planning minister Greg Clark, Tory MP for Tunbridge Wells, stressed that local plans will set out what is unacceptable.

"The protection that the Green Belt has enjoyed in the planning system continues," he said. "Indeed, to recognise the importance of green space within towns and cities as well as outside them, a new designation is available to people through their neighbourhood and local plans to protect valued green space wherever it is.

"There is no change, either, in the position of AONB, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Parks or other protected habitats. Neither is



AT RISK: As much as 39 per cent of Kent's countryside is not protected under the National Planning Policy Framework, say campaigners

there any change in the status of countryside outside these specially protected areas.

"Local councils will still decide through their plans what land to allocate – with the crucial difference that these local plans will no longer be overridden by the diktat of unaccountable regional quangos, which are being abolished."

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Olympic tourism boost

THE county's tourism industry could benefit by more than £300m thanks to the Olympic Games, Visit Kent has predicted. The tourist organisation believes visitors will spend an extra £324m in the four years following the London 2012 Games as many of the 240,000 people expected to travel through Kent to the Olympic stadium return to explore the county in the following years. Some 90,000 people are due to arrive at the Port of Dover for the Games.

➔ Sun 'blinded' crash OAP

AN 83-year-old driver who died in a crash may have been blinded by the sun before the accident. The man, from Canterbury, was driving his BMW X1 along College Road at 3.50pm on Sunday, February 26, when it hit a brick pillar. He died two days later. The collision happened at the point where College Road splits from the B2052. Police are looking at whether the driver was temporarily blinded by the Sun as he negotiated the split in the road.

➔ Semi-naked cyclist

A middle-aged male cyclist – naked from the waist down – has been spotted in the Gravesend countryside at Shornemead Fort, Lower Shorne.

The unknown rider is bound to be a little saddle-sore after his jaunt in the country.

Police said they'd had a report of a half-naked cyclist in the area, thought to be in his 40s, wearing just his top half clothes and a cycle helmet.

HEALTH

Midwifery applications soar as TV viewers are inspired by hit show

THE success of the TV series *Call the Midwife* has sparked a mini-boom in the industry.

University course clearing house UCAS has seen a dramatic rise of around 20 per cent on last year since the programme was broadcast on Sunday nights on BBC One.

And in Kent, some courses are being over-subscribed.

The drama highlights the plight of nuns in London's East End during the 1950s and is based on the memoirs of Jennifer Worth. The programme shows a newly qualified midwife who begins her career alongside an order of nursing nuns, and shows the harrowing and light-hearted sides of midwifery.

Back to the 21st century, and the Royal College of Midwives said of the increased



POPULAR: *Call the Midwife* was watched by millions

applications: "This can only be a good thing for the profession, but people should not have a rose-tinted view based on a TV show from the 1950s."

With average audiences of almost nine million, the show which stars Miranda Hart proved to be a surprise hit.

Debra Teasdale, head of the department for health, wellbeing and the family at Canterbury Christ Church

University, said: "Over the past five years the university has had increasing interest and applications for the midwifery pre-registration courses.

"To date this year, applications have continued to rise, reflecting the popularity of the CCCU course to students both based locally and further afield. We have around eight applications for each commissioned student place.

"*Call the Midwife* has always been a popular book for those interested in midwifery and to see it come to life as a series has been very interesting for students.

"The story has been able to show how the 'art and science' of midwifery has developed over the last 50 years, yet the basic needs of women remain unchanged."

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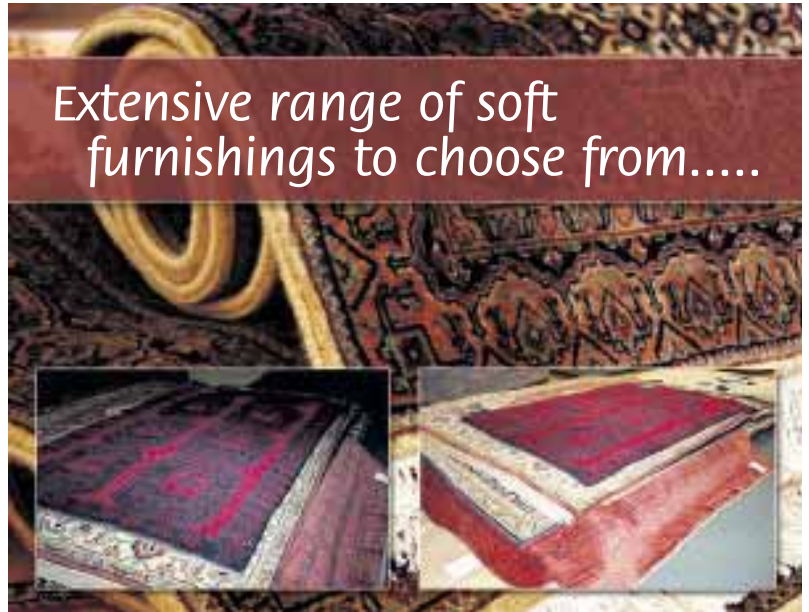
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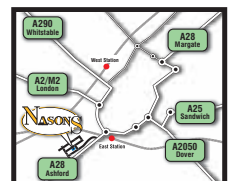


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POLICE

Candidates prepare arresting bids in fight to become new police tsar

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

IN just eight months Kent Police will come under the control of a Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Government's idea, based on a more American-style of politics, is to have an elected official in charge of policing who is accountable to the community.

The role will replace Kent Police Authority which is made up of councillors and lay people.

The commissioner will take over many of the responsibilities currently in the hands of the authority, including holding Chief Constable Ian Learmonth to account.

They will set budgets and manage the police's portion of the council tax, create a five-year policing plan, engage with the public about crime, and appoint the chief constable.

The main operational decisions will still be in the hands of the senior officers but the commissioner will have extensive influence over the way policing is shaped in Kent.

After they are elected the commissioner will appoint a team to help them fulfil the role, including a chief executive and a finance director.

Anyone can stand as the police commissioner – either linked to a political party or as an independent. The elections will place on November 15, and Dover council election officials will be carrying out the ballot for the county.

The salary ranges from £60,000-100,000 depending on the size of the police constabulary.

Col Tim Collins, who made his name in the Iraq war, has already been named as a possible candidate for the Conservative Party.

His comments that he considered the job a part-time role angered some officers, but he is taking the election seriously. He is currently finalising his manifesto ready for a Conservative selection meeting in May.

A spokesman for Col Collins said: "Tim has been talking to the Kent MPs and has got their strong backing now, in addition to the Home Secretary's and the Prime Minister's.

"He has also been talking to quite a few police



MAIN ROLE: Harriet Yeo and Col Tim Collins are running for Police and Crime Commissioner job

FACT FILE:

- Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are directly elected individuals who will make sure the public's views and priorities are the driving force behind policing.
- They will be elected every four years by the residents of Kent and Medway.
- The commissioner for Kent will be a single individual, who will be salaried for the full-time post.
- They can appoint a deputy commissioner, but they alone are responsible for ensuring an efficient and effective police force.
- They set the police budget and receive all police grants.
- Prepare a five-year police and crime plan.
- Consult with the public and victims of crime.
- Appoint, and if necessary, dismiss the chief constable.

officers of all ranks to get their views."

Other people known to have put their name forward so far include Fran Croucher, a former police officer who resigned from the force; property magnate and businessman Fergus Wilson,

who made millions on the buy-to-let market.

Jan Berry, a former chairman of the Police Federation, is reported to have considered standing.

Harriet Yeo, from Ashford, is a councillor seeking the Labour Party nomination.

She said: "I have a tough line on crime and justice. Kent is a unique area. We have border control issues on the coast; we have the M20 and the problems with Operation Stack when we have paid police officers acting as traffic wardens.

"We have city crime where we adjoin greater London and we also have a lot of rural crime and urban antisocial behaviour. It really needs someone who knows and understands the area."

Kenneth Little is an independent candidate who lives near Whitstable.

He wants to make extensive use of the internet to help residents tell the police what law and order issues are on their doorstep and create a more open and transparent force.

He said: "It is no longer acceptable to be secret, secrecy only creates anger and frustration, it causes anti-police sentiments and non-cooperation from the public.

"For a fair justice system to work public participation is needed, the public want to be involved to make their area safer and better."

■ To find out more about the role of police and crime commissioners visit www.kentpoliceauthority.gov.uk/police-and-crime-commissioners.

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Fisherman's inquest

AN inquest into the death of a fisherman has been opened and adjourned in Maidstone.

The body of Wade Berryman, 21, was found in the water off Herne Bay by Whitstable lifeboat's crew on Saturday.

It is believed he dived into the sea to try to recover his fishing boat.

The skipper of the Lisa K was rescued from the Red Sands Towers, after having spent the night on the army fort in the Thames Estuary.

➔ Drive for site safety

CONSTRUCTION sites in Kent are under the spotlight as part of an intensive inspection initiative aimed at reducing death, injury and ill health. Until March 16, inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive are visiting sites where refurbishment or repair works are being carried out. Their primary focus will be high-risk activity such as working at height. During 2010-11, one person died and almost 100 others were seriously injured on construction sites in Kent.

➔ Star Pam's market duty

CALL the Midwife star Pam Ferris, who lives in Elham, is to officially reopen the village's farmers' market. She will cut the ribbon on Sunday, March 11, at 10am to open the market for business following its winter closure. The Darling Buds of May actress is a regular shopper and market volunteer, taking her turn to help set up and take down the market on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.

AWARDS

Search is launched to find the very best new development designs

THE Kent Design and Development Awards are back after two years and ready to uncover more of the county's most talented design and construction professionals.

This year's competition was launched at the London Golf Club near Brands Hatch on Thursday by leader of Kent County Council Cllr Paul Carter.

The awards, organised by public/private partnership the Kent Design Initiative, celebrate the high quality development delivered throughout the county.

Cllr Carter said: "This is an opportunity to really promote excellence in design and development in terms of buildings in Kent.

"It will showcase talent used in new developments taking place around the county.

"It promotes the best in Kent such as public buildings, theatres, galleries and a range of different designs and constructions and

celebrates the talent we have here."

Previous winners include Deal Pier Café (pictured) in the commercial, industrial and retail category, and Ashford Shared Space, in the town village renaissance category.

This year there are five categories – residential; commercial, industrial and retail; civils and

infrastructure; public buildings; and environmental performance.

There will also be an overall winner.

KCC said the 2012 awards had a renewed focus on economic growth and that it was even more important to ensure the design quality agenda attracted inward investment and created the

conditions needed for sustainable long-term growth in the private sector.

Entries must be made by June 15 and winners will be announced in October. For more information on entering go to www.kent.gov.uk/designawards.



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TRAVEL

Motorists warned of congestion hell as Westgate Towers closed to cars

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

DRIVERS in Canterbury are being warned of gridlock when a new road layout is given a trial run at one of the city's most iconic sites.

The council has decided to pedestrianise the route through the Westgate Towers and other nearby roads.

The 12-month trial to protect the historic city gate is being introduced on Tuesday, March 27. The council hopes in the long term that closing the 14th century building to traffic will also improve congestion and air quality in the city.

Executive member for transportation, Cllr Peter Vickery-Jones, said: "Removing traffic from passing underneath one of our landmark, historic buildings has been an ambition for many years.

"We have had proposals in the past that have either not worked or not got off the ground. However, we now have a scheme that we believe can be successful and it is imperative we give this a real go."

New traffic lights will be installed



NEW ROUTE: Cars will no longer be allowed through the Westgate Towers

on the road alongside the tower. It will now only be open to buses and taxis. Other traffic will be redirected further away from the city wall and via Canterbury West station.

Construction work on the new road system is expected to begin on Monday, March 12, with work be-

ing carried out through the night.

Councillors admit the new system will take time to bed in.

Cllr Vickery-Jones said: "We understand the concerns about the impact of the project on people living in the area and on surrounding roads that are likely to see an in-

crease in traffic, but we would ask them to give it time to settle and take full effect before dismissing it as not working.

"We will monitor the situation very closely and will be able to respond quickly to any major problems that occur, and make adjustments if necessary."

There will be a public exhibition at the Westgate Hall in Canterbury on Thursday, March 15, from 10am-4pm when highways officers from the city and county councils will answer questions.

In the meantime, drivers can expect journeys to take more time.

Cllr Vickery-Jones said: "We would also urge people to leave a lot of extra time for their journeys and give thought to alternative routes they will take, particularly in the first few weeks of these changes going live. It is going to cause considerable disruption and congestion and motorists need to be prepared for that."

Go to www.canterbury.gov.uk/westgatetowertrial for more details.

■ For more news and sport go to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Home-share action

THANET council has introduced new planning regulations to restrict the number of Homes of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in the district. The council decided to change planning rules after the Government introduced legislation which meant homes could have been turned into HMOs for up to six unrelated people without seeking planning permission.

Thanet has a large number of HMOs, many of them considered a blight on the area by residents.

Butterfly Appeal launch

THE Butterfly Appeal fundraising drive has been launched to build a new £1.3 million Kent MS Therapy Centre. More than 300 people attended the launch at the Ashford International Hotel. Businessman Frank Brake has promised to pound for pound match all cash raised to meet the target for the new building, until the end of 2013. Over 1,600 people in Kent suffer from multiple sclerosis, an incurable debilitating disease which can strike at any time.

Occupy's secret protest

OCCUPY Thanet campaigners who are camped outside Turner Contemporary art gallery in Margate say they are planning a special 'event' this weekend.

They say that on Saturday, March 3, they are going to take part in a demonstration – but the details will only be revealed on the day.

Supporters are assembling at 11am outside Arlington House in Margate.



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News

SAFETY

Businesses warned that fire crews won't go to automatic 999 alarms

KENT'S fire service is to start ignoring automatic fire alarms during the day unless a real person confirms an emergency – and business leaders say it's vital they get their systems in tip-top condition.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service has now stopped its routine attendance at automatic alarms in some circumstances. It is part of a recent cost-cutting exercise which included the closure of eight fire stations across Kent.

With 98 per cent of all automatic alarms being false, KFRS has changed the way these are dealt with, and has called on businesses across the county to be aware of the new method of dealing with them.

From April 2, all calls from automatic fire alarms will be challenged by the service's 999 staff. Between 6am-6pm, unless the incident can be confirmed to be an actual fire or signs of fire, an engine will not be sent, they said.

But for a year, a fire engine will be sent to calls to automatic fire alarms received between 6pm-6am, where a procedure has not been

introduced to confirm a fire. This is to allow those responsible for managing premises extra time to make any required changes to their procedures. This applies to all calls.

False alarms are generally the result of dust or poor maintenance.

In recent months, fire safety officers have met with organisations and business across the county advising them of the changes.

KFRS said its officers are constantly reminding businesses it is their responsibility to ensure systems operate correctly, are properly maintained and do not produce unwanted calls.

Following the changes, they will need to be clear on what to do when the alarm goes off, how they will check if there is a fire or signs of fire, and will need to ensure their fire risk assessment takes into account the changes.

Jo James, Kent Invicta Chamber chief executive, said: "Not attending all automatic alarms is not a good thing, but it's understandable. So many times the fire service is called out to false alarms. We can't be such a drain on resources. One day a company might need the fire service and they are not going to be there, so there is an onus on us all as businesses to ensure we have the right fire systems in place and they are being properly monitored."

KFRS director of service delivery Steve Griffiths said: "Each call takes firefighters and equipment away from genuine emergencies where lives may be at risk and causes disruption on the roads because, in the majority of the cases, firefighters arrive on blue lights and no action is required."

For more information visit www.kent.fire-uk.org.

MEMOIR

Magician shares story of survival

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A NEW book tells the story of a PoW whose survival of World War Two is simply a miracle.

Prisoner of war Fergus Anckorn was the only person left alive after a notorious massacre, he was bombed several times, covered in creosote under a tropical sun, and finally taken out to be machine gunned by his Japanese captors.

And alongside his amazing escapes from death in war is a tale of magic – the man known as the Conjurer on the Kwai used his sleight of hand tricks to obtain food for his comrades as they fought to stay alive amid the horror of the infamous 'Death Railway'.

His story has now been told by author Peter Fyans in *Captivity, Slavery and Survival as a Far East POW*, published by Pen and Sword.

Mr Anckorn, born in Dunton Green, near Sevenoaks, became the youngest ever member of the Magic Circle at the age of 18 – and now at 93 is its oldest member who is still performing.

But in 1941 as a Royal Artillery gunner, he was sent into Singapore, just days before it fell to the Japanese.

"After three-and-a-half months at sea we came into the harbour under fire, shelling and bombing," he said from his home in Sevenoaks.

"We came down the gang plank and straight into action.

"I was a gun driver and knocked out of action after five days. So my fighting war was five days long. For that I was signed up for seven years and three days."

Wounded, Mr Anckorn drifted in and out of consciousness in hospital.

"I saw the walking wounded being taken quietly out in single file, their hands tied tightly with barbed wire and tied to one another. Behind them was a soldier with a rifle and bayonet," he said. "After bayoneting and killing the lot of them, the soldiers came

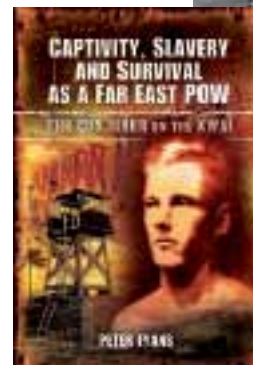


REMARKABLE: Fergus Anckorn fought in the war for just five days before he became a prisoner of war, narrowly escaping death on several occasions. His story is told in the new book written by Peter Fyans

back into the ward, wiped the blood off their bayonets and proceeded to kill everyone in their beds, along with the doctors and nurses.

"I was the only survivor. When I'd been blown up my right hand was in a mess and the doctor had applied a tourniquet.

"When the Japanese were two beds away from



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his remarkable on the River Kwai

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



EXPERIENCE: Mr Anckorn still practises sleight of hand today. Left is an image of Wampo Viaduct, which he was put to work on while a prisoner

practical help. In front of the camp commandant, who was impressed with his sleight of hand, Mr Anckorn used tinned food and fresh fruit as props – so he got to eat them as the Japanese rejected anything a prisoner had touched.

"We had 10-minute breaks from work," he said. "I'd do magic and the guards would watch, turning those breaks into 45 minutes, when my friends would be stealing potatoes from the Japanese stores."

Mr Anckorn said he never saw morale go down among the prisoners, despite the terrible conditions and treatment.

"Then on one occasion four guards selected five of us at random and drove us out into the jungle," he said.

"They stood us up against the trees, got a machine gun out, mounted it on its tripod and aimed it at us.

"We didn't have blindfolds, we just stood waiting to be killed for 10 minutes. We asked each other 'why don't they pull the trigger and get it over with?'"

"Then suddenly they dismantled the gun and took us back to camp – where we found the war had been over for three days.

"They must have known that and also knew we were going to be told that evening. So I think they thought they would be hanged, after all there were 2,000 of us and 80 of them, and so they thought to take some of us with them.

"But then they must have thought 'what if they don't intend to hang us? Well they will if they see what we have done'.

"I think that is what saved us."

■ To see an interview with Mr Anckorn go to www.youtube.com/user/yourkenttv.

me I said to myself 'I'm dead, it's all over. I'll never be 25'. I went into unconsciousness and woke up and everyone was dead but me.

"Apparently the tourniquet was no good, blood was still pouring out of me and when they came to bayonet me they saw all the blood and thought they'd already done it."

Taken to a prisoner of war camp Mr Anckorn was set to work on the Burma Railway Wampo Viaduct, made famous by David Lean's film *Bridge on the River Kwai*.

On one occasion he was told to creosote the top of a viaduct – 100 feet above ground.

"As a result of being bombed a certain part of my brain was damaged, which gave me vertigo," he said. "I tried to tell the guard using sign language but he just went off to find something to beat me with.

"I started climbing up there a leg at a time but when I got to the top I couldn't open my eyes. I was just clinging to the bridge. The guard came up after me and threw my five gallons of creosote over me and I started to swell up like the Michelin Man. I ended up in the river but so badly burned I was taken away for treatment."

All eight members of his working party were dead within three weeks.

But his magic tricks proved a vital source of

ACCIDENT

Man, 63, dies after his van comes off the road

A 63-year-old man died after the vehicle he was travelling in crashed in Nettlestead, near Maidstone. Police are keen to hear from any witnesses to the accident which happened at around 11.15am last Sunday. It is believed a VW Transporter left the road as it travelled on Maidstone Road towards Nettlestead Green. The driver was pronounced dead at the scene. No other cars are believed to have been involved.

CRIME

Man in court accused of CCTV cat swinging

A 20-year-old man has appeared in court accused of causing unnecessary suffering to a cat in Ramsgate.

Ria Richards, from Ramsgate, is accused of swinging a cat by its tail in October, 2011. The case relates to CCTV footage showing a cat being swung.

The case was adjourned until April 3 at Canterbury Magistrates.

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HEALTH

Thousands suffering in silence with dementia urged to come forward

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE stigma attached to dementia has led to a staggering number of people going undiagnosed in the county, say public health bosses.

New figures show worrying numbers are avoiding visiting their GP for fear of being diagnosed with the disease.

In east Kent it is thought there are around 6,950 people secretly struggling with the condition, without access to drug treatment or support. The dementia register shows 3,875 people are diagnosed with the condition in the east of the county, just 35 per cent of the total number believed to have dementia.

In Medway it is 1,093 diagnosed – 43 per cent of the estimated number of sufferers – with around 1,400 thought to remain undiagnosed. West Kent has 3,293 diagnosed – 37 per cent of the estimated number – with around 5,422 believed to be undiagnosed.

The figures show a rise since the last count in 2010, and health bosses have warned the number of people developing the degenerative brain disease is expected to grow as people live longer.

There are currently 18,000 people living with the condition in the county

and this is expected to increase to 31,000 by 2026.

Commissioning manager for NHS Kent and Medway and Kent Adult Social Services Emma Hanson said the earlier the diagnosis the better.

"This isn't something that people just get as they get older; it's a mental health problem," she said.

"I won't dress this up; it's a horrible, life-changing and degenerative disease. You can't stop dementia, but you can manage it. That's why it's so important that people get diagnosed."

A range of services are available across the county including dementia cafés, crisis support, a 24-hour helpline, memory clinics and peer support groups.

Former social worker Ms Hanson, said people often avoid getting diagnosed and it can take a crisis for the sufferer and their family to finally face up to the problem.

Ms Hanson said Kent was lagging behind with its diagnosis rates.

"Improving rates is important as post-diagnostic support and treatment are essential in ensuring people with dementia and their carers are offered support to manage their condition.

"Evidence shows that the right support in the early stages means people

are more resilient and prepared, therefore less likely to go into crisis as their disease progresses."

A large scale redesign of services is taking place, including bringing together social care, community nursing and community mental health teams to share knowledge and skills; developing dementia-friendly communities; and working to promote independence and help people live well with their dementia.

Tom, a 58-year-old dementia sufferer from Maidstone, said the peer support group service had helped him cope and enjoy life.

"Fifteen months ago I was diagnosed with vascular dementia. I attended an eight-week post diagnostic course run by the NHS," he said.

"After that finished, there was nothing else. I felt alone because I couldn't see anybody else with dementia. Everyone looks the same. You think there is no-one else out there with dementia.

"Fortunately, in February I found the peer support group in Maidstone. I get support and information, but also I know there are other people with dementia who are there to help me."

For help with dementia call 0800 5003014 or go to www.dementiaweb-kentandmedway.org.uk.

HEALTH

Getting creative for the economy

THE heads of creative companies in Kent gathered at Maidstone Television Studios on Wednesday to discuss ideas on how to help the county's economy.

Media chiefs, arts leaders and communications experts were asked to consider strategies which

would help grow creative businesses in Kent.

The conference was devised by Kent County Council and the Kent Economic Board to gather new ideas as well as feedback on the challenges that face the county's businesspeople.

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News

EVENT

Dickens is centre stage at the Travel and Leisure Show 2012

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THIS year sees the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of the world's favourite authors, Charles Dickens.

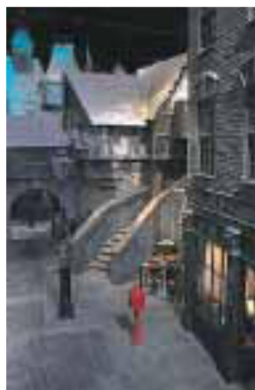
And leading Kent attraction Dickens World in Chatham is holding celebrations to mark the bicentenary.

Visitors can see what the site has planned at this year's free Travel and Leisure Show at the Dover Cruise Terminal on March 10-11.

The Archant KOS Media event has attracted many leading names in the tourist industry from the South East and the Continent.

These include White Cliffs Country, English Heritage, Penshurst Place, the Historic Dockyard Chatham, and Canterbury Tales, along with representatives from Arras, St Omer and other parts of northern France.

Dickens World, which takes visitors back into Dickensian England and immerses them in the urban streets, sounds and



WHAT THE DICKENS? Join in venue's special celebrations

smells of the early 19th century, is set for a bumper year because of the intense interest in the author, who has many connections to Kent.

One of the events celebrating the anniversary is to be held in the Britannia Theatre next month.

It is a theatrical adaptation of Great Expectations, which is



being put on by The Baroque Theatre Company on March 16. The show tells how young Phillip Pirrip, known as Pip, helps the escaped convict Abel Magwitch and sets in motion a train of events that will affect his entire life.

Taken under the wing of the eccentric Miss Havisham, Pip falls in love with her ward, the chilly Estella, and determines to become a gentleman.

A spokesman for the event said: "Bringing to life all the vivid characters of the original and conveying the story with great clarity, atmosphere and theatrical flair, Hugh Leonard's adaptation of Charles Dickens' most popular novel is both exciting and haunting."

■ **For more information about the Travel and Leisure Show and to book free tickets go to www.the-travelandleisureshow.co.uk.**

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News

TRANSPORT

Return to old stopping times would ease passenger woes

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

MAINLINE train timetables should be reinstated to the same stopping patterns that ran before high-speed trains were introduced.

That is one of the main recommendations of an in-depth report carried out by a panel of Canterbury City councillors, which says High Speed 1 has brought a mix of pros and cons for east Kent.

While Canterbury West station has benefited from shorter train times to London via Ashford, other stations along the separate north Kent line running to Thanet have seen increases of around 15 minutes because of trains stopping at more stations.

Chairman of the review panel Cllr Jenny Samper said: "Some of these recommendations are in the power of the council and others we have to refer on to Southeastern and government, such as modifying the franchise."

The report, approved by the council executive, says the stopping pattern of mainline trains travelling to London stations such as Victoria and Cannon Street should be reinstated when there is a new franchise in 2014. This would make the

journey time to Victoria from Herne Bay around 80 minutes.

Councillors also say mainline passengers who are delayed for more than 30 minutes should be able to use high-speed services without having to pay more. Another recommendation was the monitoring of classic and high-speed services should be separated to give a clearer picture of Southeastern's performance.

Passenger groups, local authorities, and train companies were consulted for the report.

Cllr Samper said: "There are some measures Southeastern could put in place that would improve the situation. I hope the benefits will be more widespread, but I think anything is unlikely to happen before the change of the franchise."

A spokesperson for Southeastern said: "If mainline services are severely delayed then we do allow passengers to use high-speed rail at no extra cost. The stopping pattern is set by the Department of Transport."

"Passenger journeys from London to Canterbury grew from approximately 190,000 in 2009, to well over 250,000 by the end of 2011."

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CENTENARY

Women and girls invited to join anniversary celebrations by recreating Channel crossing

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT'S been 100 years since the first woman flew across the English Channel, and to mark a century of female flight, a Kent airport is launching a major celebration.

Harriet Quimby was born in Arcadia, Michigan, in America, and played a major role in getting women in to the cockpit. The journalist became interested in flying in 1910 when she went to an airshow, she got her licence just a year later.

One year on from then, in the early hours of April 16, 1912, she took off from Dover in a Bleriot monoplane, taking 59 minutes to fly 25 miles and landing safely on a beach at Hardelot-Plage, about 20 miles from Calais.

This was just three years after Louis Bleriot famously became the first person to make the trip – but he did it in the opposite direction.

Sadly for Harriet at the time, there were few plaudits apart from the Daily Mirror which had sponsored the flight – as the Titanic had sunk just the day before, so stealing all the headlines.

Now there is a chance for the women and girls of Kent to follow in her vapour trail. Headcorn airfield, near Maidstone, is celebrating the centenary in style.

On March 10 the Women Of Aviation Worldwide is organising the fly-in. Across the Channel: Women

PIONEER: Harriet Quimby, left, was the first woman to fly across the English Channel. Aerobatic star Pascale Alajouanine, right, will be among the women celebrating the anniversary of her achievement

Unifying Nations, which will take place simultaneously at Headcorn and Le Touquet Airport in France.

This event, one of the many taking place worldwide during Women Of Aviation Worldwide Week, aims to encourage women to consider learning to fly.

Pilots from all around Europe and North America will fly across the English Channel with girls and women flying in a small aircraft for the first time. The fleet of aircraft will be diverse and include airplanes, seaplanes, helicopters, and even ultra-lights, organisers said.

Among them will be famous fliers like Canadian pilot Jane Planchon, and aerobatic champion Pascale Alajouanine.

Both airports have planned many free activities including viewing and tasting of local products, discovery of aviation history, information about learning to fly and aviation opportunities available, test tries of aviation products, and speeches by prominent aviation professionals.

For more information visit www.WomenOfAviationWeek.org.

■ **Read more news and sport at** www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.



CRIME

Yobs' m-way bridge attack

POLICE have issued a warning about throwing objects from road bridges after a car on the M20 had its windscreen smashed last Saturday.

The Toyota Rav 4 was at junction three on the London-bound carriageway at 6.45pm when an object was hurled from the roadbridge above. It hit the windscreen of the car causing it to shatter.

The driver, a woman in her 20s, was unhurt.

Insp Nick Sparkes said: "This could have easily smashed the windscreen and struck the driver with disastrous consequences. Throwing anything at a vehicle is irresponsible and malicious, but to throw something large from a bridge at a vehicle could kill someone."

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News

ENTERTAINMENT

Lounge festival names first big acts as tighter security is promised in licence bid

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A RING of steel will be thrown up around this year's Lounge on the Farm music festival in a bid to calm the nerves of police and councillors.

As the first string of big names to perform at the three-day event in July were unveiled, organisers confirmed details of the licence bid submitted to Canterbury City Council.

Festival chiefs re-applied following complaints over traffic and crime last summer.

It has now opted to work with local authorities in a bid to secure the long-term future for what has become one of the UK's top boutique events.

Hotly tipped Brit Award winner Emeli Sande joins the likes of legendary dance act Chic, drum and bass star Goldie, hip hop pioneer Roots Manuva, reggae star David Rodigan, The



I'M LOUNGING: Emeli Sande

Wombats, and Mystery Jets. It takes place at Merton Farm in Canterbury on July 6-8.

A spokeswoman said: "The new licence detailed rigorous security structures, such as a new steel shield fencing system, CCTV on key points of the site and a new security firm.

"There is also a new site plan

that has been modified from previous years to allow for a bigger general camping area, more features and facilities for families and more space for campervans and toileting.

"We expect to hear back from the relevant bodies in mid-late March and are continuing with the organisation of the festival."

The council confirmed a meeting of the licensing committee would rule on the application in the coming weeks. Covering just the 2012 event, it restricts capacity to 9,999; no bigger than last year.

Kent's other major music festival, at the Hop Farm in Paddock Wood, is expected to announce its line up in the next few weeks. Last year it made headlines after staging the only UK show of Prince, it also featured Morrissey, Lou Reed, Iggy Pop and Patti Smith.

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News

BUSINESS

Olympic hopes as airport opens horse travel centre

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

MANSTON airport has opened a new centre so it can be used to fly horses into the country – and it could mean extra Olympics business.

The £250,000 Equine Border Inspection Post (E-BIP) can house up to 10 horses at one time and has a dedicated quarantine stable, with a separate inspection stable offering state-of-the-art equipment.

Allan McQuarrie, group manager for freight development at Manston, said: "The idea started around two years ago after enquiries from customers. Our centre is virtually next to where the planes come in with the horses. Within five minutes the animal is in the inspection post so the vets can do their checks."

The border post has to have a sterile area where vets can carry out blood tests and checks, along with paperwork.

The airport hopes to make the most of the growing mar-



QUARANTINE: The new equine centre can take up to 10 horses

ket in horse transport.

Mr McQuarrie said: "You would be staggered by the amount of horses that fly. Polo teams, for example, can come from all around the world, bringing 40-50 horses at one time. There is also demand from horseracing."

The airport hopes to attract customers away from Stanstead and Heathrow.

Mr McQuarrie said: "Our key selling point is that we subject the horse to the minimum amount of stress. From the aircraft to the border post the distance is less than 300 metres and it is sheltered from aircraft activity by other buildings."

The new facility was officially opened by the wife of Thanet MP Sir Roger Gale, Lady Suzy Gale, who is a founder member of welfare charity Animals Worldwide.

Manston has also commissioned nearby Quex Livery to provide specialist horse handling and clean-up services.

Although built to handle imports, the airport has also used the facilities to export 45 ponies to Miami for the polo season, and 20 horses for the Qatari royal family.

It hopes its location close to London will make it an attractive airport for Olympic teams. Equestrian events at the London Olympics are taking place at Greenwich Park, only 58 miles from the airport.

Mr McQuarrie said: "We believe Manston ticks all the boxes with no slot restrictions and no congestion."

The airport also expects the general market in airborne horse travel to increase.

■ **More news and sport at** www.yourthanet.co.uk.

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KENT REMEMBERED



ON TRACK: Train travel has changed dramatically in the years since the guide was first published

Railway guide offers a 19th century view of towns and travel

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AN historic travel book, made famous by a recent television series, has given us a glimpse of our towns in times gone by.

For the last few years former Tory cabinet minister Michael Portillo has been using the Victorian travel guide Bradshaw's to negotiate his way around the British Isles as part of a TV show looking at railways and 19th century heritage.

Bradshaw's Handbook is widely regarded as one of the first tourist guides ever produced, being published as the popularity of exploring by rail reached its peak.

Originally a producer of railway timetables, George Bradshaw branched out with his handbook which included local attractions, sites of historic interest, and advice on where to stay. Handily for the time, the details of the nearest telegraph station were also included.

Extremely famous in its day, the guide was frequently referenced in literature.

Perhaps the most famous example is by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the Sherlock Holmes story The Valley of Fear.

He wrote: "The vocabulary of Bradshaw is nervous and terse, but limited."

Other references include the Holmes story, The Adventure of the Copper Beeches; Lewis Carroll's long poem Phantasmagoria and – most unusually – Bram Stoker's Dracula, which makes note of the vampire reading an "English Brad-



TRAVEL GUIDE: Bradshaw's has recently been republished

shaw's Guide" as part of the preparations for his voyage to the country.

The 1863 edition of the book put Kent in the same section as Sussex, Hampshire, Devon, Dorset, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Wight.

Following the Portillo TV series – which has been running since 2009 – the book has just been reprinted in its original form.

Margate – the location for the first bathing machine – was one of the most popular holiday resorts in Victorian times.

Bradshaw's says it has a population of 8,874 and "steamers to London daily in summer, thrice weekly in winter". Gardener's Royal and the White Hart are recommended as places to stay.

The guide states of the town: "There is not, in the whole range of our sea-side physiography, a more lively, bustling place

than this said Margate; albeit by those who are fettered down in said formalities and regard laughter as a positive breach of good breeding it is pronounced to be essentially and irredeemably vulgar.

"The streets are always a scene of continued excitement, and troops of roughish, ruddy-cheeked urchins, escorted by their mamas or nursery-maids traverse every thoroughfare about the town from morning until night."

The Sun or The Mitre are recommended for visitors to Chatham which, the guide states, has two fairs a year on May 15 and September 19, each lasting three days.

After a brief note on the naval dockyard it goes on to say: "Omnibuses run through Rochester to meet every train and the Sheerness steamer touches here. Population 36,177 including 7,000 or 8,000 dockyard-men and soldiers. Depots of marines, of several regiments of the line, and East India service are stationed at Chatham."

Visitors to Faversham, which has a market on Wednesday and Friday, are given a medieval history lesson: "It was a place of much note before the time of (King) Stephen who, however, built and endowed an abbey here for Cluniac monks and in which himself, his queen and his son Eustace were buried."

"At the dissolution, Stephen's remains were thrown into the river, for the sake of the leaden coffin in which they were contained."

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OPINION

Demand better broadband now

Broadband is great – if you can get it. KCC's Cllr Kevin Lynes explains better internet could be on its way, but only if people say they need it

HOW many of us use the internet every day?

The statistics show that internet use is going up all of the time. People are online for a huge variety of reasons. Everyone, from teenagers to great grandmothers, is using Facebook, Twitter and other social media.

Online gaming is hugely popular – whether it's the Nintendo Wii, Xbox or Playstation 3.

Away from the leisure activities, there are thousands of children using the web every day for education, both in school and at home. While adult learners and university students also depend on it for their research.

Add to both of those the massive implications of online communication to business and it is easy to see why many people see broadband as an essential utility – much like electricity or gas.

However, while some take

broadband for granted, others feel the coverage is not as good as we would hope.

Through makekentquicker.com you could help to change that though.

Those missing out include teachers who cannot make the most of online resources, professionals who find they are unable to work on the move, and even business owners who have to sit in a restaurant or lay-by to get work done – because these are the only places that they can access the broadband network.

This simply has to change and I am passionate about putting it right.

What I want to see is more Kent households and businesses getting connections, and bringing superfast broadband to more of the county.

Already, the Government has matched KCC's £10m commitment to improving the infrastructure. Now it is all about

showing the firms that provide broadband how much Kent needs improvements, which you can do on the website.

With the right support, we can show the broadband companies that they need to get stuck in to Kent. I want to see Kent work, learn and play in a way that reflects the century we live in.

I want rural parts of the county to have the same advantages as urban areas. I want Kent businesses to be competitive whatever part of the county they are in.

None of that, however, can be achieved without proving there is demand. And that is where the views of all Kent and Medway people will make the biggest difference.

The makekentquicker.com website is at the heart of a campaign to prove demand and is the place to go and register that you want better broadband for the county.



6699

I want rural parts of the county to have the same as urban areas

What I would like to ask people to do is go to the website and register to say they want better broadband. By registering your desire to see improved broadband, you help us give the providers the nudge they need to recognise how important the network is to Kent.

By getting their commitment, we could see a total of £43m invested in broadband – bringing superfast broadband to 90 per cent of Kent and Medway properties, and at least 2mb speeds to the other 10 per cent.

But if we don't tell them we need better broadband, nothing will happen and – despite the commitments of KCC and the Government – we won't get the improvements.

Whether as a business owner, professional, parent or student, please get involved. Visit the makekentquicker.com website and help us prove that Kent needs better broadband.

KOS COMMENT

Yet again our farmers are facing a bleak year

FARMING is certainly an unpredictable profession – there are few industries that are so susceptible to the ups and downs of the weather.

Now Kent is in drought growers have to make the hard choice of whether it is worth planting acres of onions or potatoes if they cannot be irrigated.

And just as livestock prices are beginning to see an improvement after the disasters of foot and mouth and mad cow disease, they are hit by a new virus. The Schmallenberg bug causes horrendous deformities in unborn sheep and cattle and it has spread from Europe just as the lambing season begins.

Our farmers need help and we have to prioritise the production of food over so many other things we enjoy in life.

Fergus is just magic

THE story of Fergus Anckorn is a remarkable one. While a prisoner under the Japanese working on the Burma railway the young soldier used his sleight of hand skills to get extra food for himself and his colleagues. His resourcefulness shows what magic can be achieved even in the most dire circumstances.

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Cameron must airport dream

THIS Boris Johnson pie in the sky pipe dream is just that. The Thames estuary airport will kill our villages, our towns.

On both sides of the water in Kent and Essex there are triple Sites of Special Scientific Interest – wetlands where migrating birds feed, plants, animals, and invisible micro-organisms, which would be damaged for ever.

The marsh is rich with life from Cliffe to the Isle of Grain, a truly lovely place.

This government is saying it is the greenest ever. So prove it Mr Cameron and drop Boris Johnson's pipe dream.

Robert Standing, by email

Wilson sets a 'fine' example

YOUR article on Fergus Wilson, candidate for the new position

of police commissioner, says speeding drivers are a good source of income, and gloated that £900 in fines had been collected when he requested a speed trap near his house.

Yet he has had at least two speeding fines himself.

Mr Wilson says he does not know much about policing.

He should have also added he does not know much about road safety. But I expect his remarks will be welcomed by speed camera partnership members, including the police.

Many young drivers are killed because of a lack of any proper road craft schooling.

Those in charge think mindless obedience of speed limits is the highest form of driving skill, and those that don't are a good source of income.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Government nose you know

THERE is a new – or perhaps revived – threat to our privacy;

the hidden records of the database state.

Alas, it now appears the Home Office is preparing to reincarnate its previously abandoned Intercept Modernisation Programme, in the form of a Communications Capabilities Development Programme (CCDP).

It is believed the CCDP will provide the Government with access, via internet service providers, to long-lasting records of all our internet communication, whether by email, social media websites and multi-player games.

This is on top of the records already retained about our telephone use.

The Government's belief in its entitlement to snoop on us has got completely out of hand in recent years and is entirely contrary to the spirit of Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which both declare the right to privacy of correspondence.

There are occasions when it is necessary for the police to intercept communications, but these should be executed on a targeted basis with specific authorisation from the courts.

Routine unwarranted mass surveillance has no legitimate part to play in the workings of a modern liberal democracy.

Ian Taylor, Dover coordinator, NO2ID

Sorry, facts tell real story

FOR 'dogma', look no further than Phil Grainger's climate change denial and use of spurious unsupported claims (Letters, February 26).

At least I try to back up my facts with sources which readers may check.

On record, he's previously claimed the 17th century 'Bauche' map shows Antarctica as ice-free. Wrong – it does the opposite even showing icebergs. It's the 15/16th century Piri Reis and Pinaeus

Maps that speculate on an ice-free land, but they even get its position wrong.

Furthermore, tree ring and soil samples these, unless fossilised, largely only go back several thousand years.

Many only provide local climate results and can be less reliable the further back.

It is polar ice cores, which go back tens of thousands years, that can be much more reliable given that atmospheric gases and dusts migrate to the poles from around the globe; but these show just the natural changes until recently.

Last year an urban heat study by Berkeley (USA) Earth Institute in 2011, set up to disprove global warming, actually found the opposite especially over the last 60 years, and it's head Prof Muller ditched his own scepticism.

Now a stark warning, signed by 18 past winners of the Blue Planet award (the eco Nobel prize) issued on February 20, 2012, on the 40th anniversary of the UN

Enviro' programme stated: "(We) need a change to systems of governance or face 3-5C global temp rises and risk climate, biodiversity and poverty crises that will spawn greater problems."

Signatories include Prof Bob Watson, UK Gov' eco-science advisor; NASA's Prof James Hansen; and Prof Paul Ehrlich an expert on population issues.

This links with what I've been saying on needed societal changes, but never mind me Mr Grainger, try running your denial and vague info past real experts, etc, such as the above.

Ray Duff, Folkestone

Green's fight for the jobless

KENT Green Party does not support the Government's approach to managing the economy or the deficit. It is creating unemployment which could be avoided.

We are disturbed the number of unemployed in the county has now reached more than 71,000. However the real figure may be more like 150,000 as the TUC has pointed out official figures in the UK do not give a reliable picture of unemployment and underemployment.

150,000 people not able to realise their full potential is what this Government's policies should really be addressing in our county.

Kent Green Party believes many useful green sector jobs could be created in Kent and Medway. A scheme of investment in jobs and apprenticeships could provide employment in insulating homes and minor construction for local community organisations.

Each council could direct schemes helping people into useful work while helping reduce the budget deficit as people pay taxes and national insurance.

By comparison, the Government's misdirected cuts reduce public sector and private sector employment, as the loss of the spending from one public sector job means one private sector job will be lost too.

We can do better than this, and Kent Green Party urges people to raise this matter with their MPs and local councils since, despite what the Coalition says, there are always alternatives.

Stuart Jeffery, Maidstone

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Chamber backs superstore plan to pay those on work experience

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

MOVES by supermarket giant Tesco to pay work-experience placements referred through the Government's controversial Jobcentre Plus scheme have won the backing of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

The company took the decision after a Twitter campaign attacked the original plans, which allowed companies to hire benefit-claimants on four-week work experience for no pay except their expenses and Job Seeker's Allowance, which is £53.45 per week for under-25s.

The scheme was aimed originally at bringing the long-term unemployed back into a work environment, but campaigners said that if people pulled out they risked losing their benefits.

One group, called Unfair Workfare, branded it "slave labour" and activists gatecrashed a Tesco store in protest.

Now, as well as offering pay, Tesco says it will guarantee a job to those who successfully complete the placement.

Jo James, chief executive at Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said: "Nobody says you have to revel in your work – probably few of us do – but you do need to enjoy the proper rewards for your efforts to appreciate the full benefits. What keeps most of us at work are those rewards, not the threat of losing what little we have."



JOBS: Jo James, of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, says the change is a welcome boost for the unemployed

"Therefore, I am pleased that Tesco and others are revising their attitude to the scheme and adjusting it to reflect what appears to be pretty strong public opinion."

"Everybody has to knuckle down to the present very trying economic austerity. The Government is keen to insist we are all in this together."

"From a business perspective, it is heartening that major employers like Tesco are prepared to listen to public opinion and show a willingness to help young job-seekers in a positive fashion."

Tesco says that about a fifth of the 7,000 new jobs it intends to create this year will go to people coming through the Jobcentre route.

Richard Brasher, Tesco UK chief executive, said: "We know it is difficult for young people to give up benefits for a short-term placement with no permanent job at the end of it."

"So this guarantee that a job will be available, provided the placement is completed satisfactorily, should be a major confidence boost for young people wanting to enter work."

Ms James said she supported the principles behind the scheme: "Experience in the work environment is of benefit to young people who are struggling to get into permanent work placements."

"The Government assures us that in many cases the work experience results in permanent employment, and if that is the case it must surely be a good thing. Equally, if future employment prospects are heightened by the work experience undertaken, that is a positive advantage."

"Work experience, however, should be just that – experience of being at work – and the primary objective of working, for all of us, is being paid a suitable remuneration for that work."

"To truly experience the benefits of working, young people should also be able to experience the satisfaction of feeling that they are making a contribution and of being in a position where they are not on benefits."

Drought in spotlight on minister's visit

THE drought being suffered in Kent came under the microscope during a ministerial visit to a top scientific site.

The work undertaken by scientists at East Malling Research (EMR) and the work of East Malling Trust, the UK's largest independent funder of horticultural research, were given a ministerial vote of confidence and thanks during a visit by Lord Taylor of Holbeach, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

He visited EMR as it was revealed that England and Wales could be heading for one of the driest winters on record, with the average winter rainfall being lower than the months preceding the 1976 drought.

Lord Taylor toured the centre to review a series of projects delivering irrigation science to support food production and reduce water consumption in horticulture.



FRUITFUL VISIT: Lord Taylor, third left, meets staff during his tour of East Malling Research

He was particularly interested in the development of new varieties of strawberry, better able to cope with drought conditions through understanding their genome, as well as new techniques for reducing water consumption while maintaining yields, quality and shelf-life.

Lord Taylor's tour included the Unigro GroDome, the research centre's secure containment facility; the

glasshouses; and the post-harvest Produce Quality Centre, operated in partnership with the University of Greenwich.

During his visit, Lord Taylor said: "East Malling Research has been at the forefront of many scientific advances in horticulture which have made an important contribution to the production of fruit and vegetables in the UK."

"They have coupled this with

working closely with growers to make sure their research is translated on-farm."

"We need to produce more food to feed a growing global population. Scientific research to improve food production, while protecting the environment, is crucial to meeting that challenge."

Professor Peter Gregory, chief executive of EMR, outlined the vision behind the UK's pre-eminent research

institute for strategic and applied research, development and innovation in horticulture.

Professor Gregory said: "The issue of water consumption by horticulture and agriculture will inevitably rise up the political agenda over the coming months."

"As a result it was very timely that we had the opportunity to brief Lord Taylor on our work and its implications for the UK, as well as overseas producers."

"East Malling is well placed to work with growers and the wider fresh-produce industry to adapt to climate change and to use resources such as water more efficiently through our research expertise in genetics and crop improvement, resource efficiency and pest and pathogen management."

"Our work in the area of post-harvest storage is also fundamental to reducing the country's levels of food waste throughout the food chain."

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Business Week

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TRANSPORT

Bus station is now fully open

CHATHAM'S Waterfront Bus Station is now operational and has become an important part of the regeneration of the town centre, providing access to stores and firms.

Since its opening in the autumn it has also bought visitors to the area and so boosted the local economy – as well as providing a far more attractive gateway to the town.

Cllr Rodney Chambers, Medway Council leader, said: "This is a key part of the regeneration of Chatham town centre. It opens up the waterfront and helps with our aim of ensuring the area remains an important shopping destination for people across the region."

Engineering company FM Conway has been extensively involved with the project, undertaking initial groundworks, foundations, drainage, ductwork and surfacing for the £7 million project, completed on behalf of Medway Renaissance and Medway District Council.

The businesses' Civil Engineering Division completed preparatory enabling works to prepare the site.

The teams installed a new underground pumping chamber to redirect the path of sewage materials and installed 9,800m of blacktop asphalt surfacing and 4,800m of paving to the bus station as well as hard landscaping and surfacing adaptations to the adjoining road network, including The Brook and Globe Lane.

The bus station uses global positioning systems (GPS) technology to track the progress of buses and provide up-to-the-minute arrival and departure times on digital display boards. FM Conway's engineers installed new bespoke four and six inch under-surface communication ducting to carry electrical cables and information technology to each separate bus stand.

Martyn Simms, project manager for FM Conway, said: "This was a large and prestigious project and required many specialists to work together to see the scheme completed."

The new Chatham Waterfront Bus Station incorporates 19 bus stops, travel information and a ticketing centre with public toilets. The structure itself is covered with wooden cladding and an environmentally green "living" roof to improve the aesthetics from high points around the town.

Great reclaimer builds a business from flotsam

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

DRIFTWOOD blown onto Kent's beaches by the wind and tide is providing a thriving business for Robert Warne.

A builder by trade, known as "The Great Reclaimer", he has been collecting the timbers which once formed parts of ships, piers and breakwaters to create unique furniture and furnishings.

Examples of his work are currently on show at the Mariners Bar alongside the harbour in Ramsgate, where Warne also created the stand out piece of decor – the prow and stern of a fishing boat embedded in either side of an interior wall.

"I collect the wood from beaches, mainly in Thanet," he said. "People will call me up if they think there is something I'd be interested in. Or I'll take a look myself – it's especially productive after a big storm."

Chairs, tables, mirror frames and even the upstairs bar in the Mariners have been created by Warne.

"I've always made things out of items which have been discarded or that I have acquired," he said. "I used to work with old industrial materials when I lived up in Yorkshire."

"Then I moved to Wales and first got interested in wood. The first lot I collected lay in my garden for a year before I started to work with it."

"What attracts me about driftwood? Well it's free for a start. And I'm interested in the sea-eaten material. The beauty is in the wood itself, all I do is put it together."

"You can't buy what I make in a timber merchants. By the very nature of the wood – its shape and texture – everything I do is unique and a one-off."



DRIFTER: Robert Warne compares himself to the materials used in his work

and groins and other sea defences."

Warne started selling his creations at a market on Broadstairs seafront, where word of mouth built up his customer base. Now he has business from people across the south east and London as his reputation has grown.

"A lot of people who move to this area want something of the sea in their home and that has been a growing market for me," said Warne.

"I was born in Toronto, Canada, and I've always been a drifter. I drifted east – a long way – and now I'm here in Kent and I'm really happy. In fact this might be my last port of call."

"The wood itself can come from a number of sources and who knows how long it has been floating on the waves? Recently a couple of shipwrecks

have been uncovered and their skeletons exposed by the shifting sands so some could originate there.

"Then there are the remains of piers

State pension reform is needed now, says expert

AN expert has said the Government must not delay its planned overhaul of the State pension scheme.

So said Tim Mills, senior consultant at Tunbridge Wells-based employee benefit consultancy Brunning Newman Houghton Limited (BNH), adding that politicians have become reticent about a subject which is of great importance to almost everyone in Britain.

Mr Mills said: "I cannot help but notice that the politicians have gone strangely quiet on the pension front since the Department for Work and Pensions' dramatic announcement in April 2011, when it wheeled out proposals for an overhaul of the current State pension system entitled: A

State Pension for the 21st century.

"At that stage the momentum for reform seemed unstoppable. The logic was irrefutable. Promise everyone a decent state pension, scrap the confusing state second pension and make it clear there would be no more credit or top-ups of any kind."

He added that this would signify the end to the often humiliating and incomprehensible means testing, and most importantly, those who saved privately or with their employer would be rewarded rather than punished for their thrift.

Mr Mills continued: "In the intervening period the deathly silence on the issue suggests it is in danger of being kicked into the political long grass as

TIME FOR CHANGE:
Tim Mills



perhaps too difficult. We have heard some self-interested comments from representatives of the public sector pension schemes where these changes might reduce members' take-home pay by around one per cent, which would presumably cause some (more) industrial unrest.

"Inevitably, this change would produce winners and losers: the current generation of pensioners will not be

included. It is regrettable that the Government cannot make these changes for all but I do not believe that should stop legislation to bring about reform in the medium term."

Mr Mills believe Pensions Minister Steve Webb summed the issues up perfectly in April 2011, when he said: 'The complexity of the current state pension system is a major barrier to saving'.

The consultant adds that both the pensions industry and instinctively most consumers see this complexity too.

He continued: "I also feel Joanne Segars, chief executive of the National Association of Pension Funds was right when she said: 'A simpler, more generous state pension is a win-win that could lift millions

out of poverty without hitting the taxpayer's pocket. Those who are disadvantaged by the current system, like women and the self-employed, will be better off."

"A revamped state pension would enable everyone to see that there is a clear foundation for their retirement, and that it pays to save. They can then build on this through their own pension and savings."

"From my standpoint the proposed changes to State pensions should be integral to the forthcoming Workplace Pension Reform (WPR) legislation later this year. Without it, advisers will have to be careful to check whether an individual will benefit from being enrolled into their employers' pension scheme."

Barclays app could change the way people shift cash

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BARCLAYS has launched Europe's first person-to-person service for sending and receiving money using mobile-phone numbers.

Barclays Pingit allows users to receive and send money, for free, to anyone with a UK current account and UK mobile-phone number, simply by using that mobile number without the need to share bank details.

The Barclays Pingit service will be available to current-account customers of all UK banks and building societies, not just those with Barclays current accounts.

At launch, only Barclays current-account customers will be able to send money via the app, but all current-account customers will be able to register online to receive money. The app will be available to all by early March.

The free service links the user's current account with their mobile-phone number. This enables payments to be sent directly to that account but without the sender needing to know anything more than the recipient's mobile-phone number.

Money is sent using the Faster Payments service. To send money, customers can use the free Barclays Pingit app available on iOS, Android and Blackberry, or they can register online to receive payments.



EASY OF USE: Barclays Pingit should be popular

Transfers are as safe as any other banking transaction and the app is protected by a five-digit passcode, set by the user.

It is expected this will prove particularly popular for friends and family sending money to each other. Barclays Pingit can also be used by some small-business customers of Barclays and other banks, for example sole traders such as window-cleaners or plumbers, meaning customers can pay them quickly, easily and securely.

Antony Jenkins, chief executive of Barclays

Retail and Business Banking, said: "Barclays Pingit could revolutionise the way people send and receive money.

"For friends splitting the cost of dinner, repaying a borrowed £10 or people sending money to a son or daughter at university, it's free, quick, convenient, secure and easy to use. You can send and receive money in seconds, without having to enter account details.

"We're committed to making customers' lives much easier, giving them more choice in how they manage their money, and Barclays Pingit absolutely does that.

"But it is not just Barclays customers who benefit as it's available to current-account customers of all the other UK banks, too. I'm sure we'll soon be wondering what we did before it."

The Barclays Pingit app can be downloaded for free now from the Apple App Store, BlackBerry App World and Android Market. Currently only Barclays current-account customers can use the app to send money, but a second release of the app, available soon, will enable non-Barclays current-account customers with smartphones to register via the app and send money.

UK current-account customers of any bank can register to receive payments with a UK mobile-phone number at www.barclays.co.uk/pingit regardless of what type of mobile phone they use.

MANUFACTURING

Expansion plans are a job boost for town

JOBS are being created in Ashford as one of the town's manufacturing companies puts expansion plans into action.

CCL Label is increasing its manufacturing capability at its Foster Road plant to meet a growing need for its specialist products – and it is using one of the town's oldest established building firms to carry out the work.

Epps Construction began work this month on the 1,700-square-metre extension, which is set to create at least 15 new jobs and has been designed by Ashford's RDA Architects.

The specialist labelling company has been in Ashford since 1990, initially as part of the Inprint group that was acquired by CCL Label in 2005. The company provides a range of labels and information leaflets for the pharmaceutical, clinical-trial and agrochemical markets.

It employs more than 150 staff at its building, with the majority of jobs being taken by local people.

"Although we serve the UK market, 85 per cent of our output is exported, principally into mainland Europe, which is why our location here in Ashford, with its good transport links, is so important," said European marketing coordinator Claire Richardson.

CCL Label is a global market leader in labelling, with 60 sites worldwide. CCL Label Ashford – a premier site within the company – is one of the leading UK producers of Expanded Content Labels – multi-page booklet-style labels that can be opened up to reveal additional information.



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FRANCHISING



HAPPY TO HELP: Franchises are typically associated with the fast-food industry, but they are also common in other fields, including health and fitness

FRANCHISING

Work for yourself... but don't be left by yourself

FRANCHISING is a way for individuals to do business by themselves while at the same time having the backing of a large organisation behind them.

A franchise is a right granted to an individual or group to market a company's goods or services within a certain territory or location.

Franchising is most commonly associated with fast-food outlets – but there are many different types of franchises available today, including catering and restaurants, automotive, cleaning and maintenance, health and fitness, financial services and pet-related franchises, to name just a few.

Some franchises can be operated from home, others require a store – while some just need a vehicle.

For anyone thinking about buying into a franchise system, it is important that they understand exactly how franchising works, what fees are involved and what is expected of them from the franchise company.

An individual who purchases and runs a franchise is called a



franchisee. They buy a franchise from the franchisor.

And after the deal is created, the franchisee must follow certain rules and in most cases an ongoing franchise royalty fee, as well as an up-front, one-time franchise fee to the franchisor.

Franchising has become one of the most popular ways of doing business in today's marketplace.

Today, franchising is helping

thousands of individuals be their own boss and own and operate their own business.

It allows entrepreneurs to be in business for themselves but not by themselves.

There is a much higher likelihood of success when an individual opens a franchise as opposed to a totally self-created business, since a proven business formula is in place.

The products, services and busi-

ness operations have already been established, too.

There are many advantages to buying a franchise. Among these are corporate image, training and savings in time.

The corporate image and brand awareness of the company is already established and consumers are always more comfortable purchasing items from a familiar name or company they trust.

For training the franchisor usually provides extensive support to the franchise-owner to ensure staff live up to the brand reputation.

As for time, since the franchise company already has the business model in place, you can simply focus on running a business.

There is good reason franchising has been around for decades.

It is a great way for individuals to own and operate their own business. Those who are thinking about buying a franchise should do their homework, research the company and consult a franchise consultant or franchise legal adviser before making a final commitment.



DEVELOPMENT

Young people can connect at summer events

YOUNG people in Kent and Medway are being given the opportunity to spend a summer full of adventure and excitement, learning new skills, making new friends and even improving their CV with an exciting array of activities.

CXK (formerly Connexions Kent & Medway) is delivering National Citizen Service, which offers young people aged 15 and 16 the chance to take on adventurous challenges and put something back into the community through a social-action project.

Working in partnership with the National Youth Agency and O2 Think Big, CXK has been awarded 736 places, which are now up for grabs for 2012 year-11 leavers who either live or attend school in Kent.

For 17 days between June and August, young people will get to take part in a range of events, including a fun-packed five-day residential experience away from home featuring outdoor activities, inspirational speakers and a social-action festival celebrating the positive contribution young people can make to society.

On their return home, they'll be making a real impact in the community by organising their own social-action project, supported by O2 Think Big.

And when it all ends, they'll get the chance to meet prospective employers and colleges, finding out about training and volunteering opportunities.

What's more, NCS graduates will be invited to an event at The O2 in London to celebrate their achievements with a night of music, dance and entertainment.

Lauren Anning, head of delivery support, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to take part in an exciting new adventure as well as learn new skills that will equip them for the future."

NCS aims to promote a more cohesive, responsible and engaged society by bringing young people from different backgrounds together to make a difference in their communities.

Those taking part will learn practical skills, meet new people, improve their self-confidence, increase independence and be supported to make a positive transition to further education, employment or training.

For the whole experience, including the residential accommodation, food, transport and certificate for programme completion, not forgetting the celebration party, the organisers just ask for a £50 voluntary contribution, with bursaries available on request.

For more information, phone CXK on 01622 683155 or email info@cxk.org. You can also complete an application form at www.connexionskentandmedway.co.uk.

Training, courses and careers

Free training for young people

YOUTH charity the Prince's Trust is calling on unemployed young people from Kent to join a new course to help them into work.

This comes as more than one-in-four young people in the county are unemployed.

The Trust is looking for 18 to 25-year-olds to take part in its free two-week 'get into facilities management' programme, running in Canterbury from March 19.

The vocational training course is suitable for young people who are interested in a career in facilities management at a university, hospital or hotel. Running in partnership with UPP (University Partnership Programmes) and the University of Kent, it will give participants the chance to gain work experience in general maintenance, housekeeping and customer service.

Throughout the course, young people will take part in activities to build their skills and confidence. Participants will also receive ongoing mentoring support after the course to help them get a job. Last year, more than three in four young people helped by the Prince's Trust moved into work or training.

Information days for those interested in joining the course take place between March 5-7. For details or to book a place on an information session call Harj Sangha, text FM to 07795 166355, or email harj.sangha@princes-trust.org.uk.

Butchers prove to be a cut above

ONE of the city's top butchers shared their experience and tricks of the trade with catering students at Canterbury College.

Jim Williams and Jason Stokes from Wincheap Butchers gave a butchery demonstration to nearly 40 BTEC catering and hospitality students.

Mr Williams, who owns the business, and Mr Stokes, a cutter, demonstrated how to prepare specific cuts and joints of pork, and the importance of selecting the right joint for the right cooking process.

Following the demonstration, students Alister Curtis and Will Dougal were challenged to create a pork dish in an hour. They cooked up a roasted pork fillet on an artichoke rosti, with sweet potato mash and an apple scented jus.

Canterbury College's catering department has worked with Wincheap Butchers for many years, and Mr Williams and Mr Stokes are well-known faces to students and staff as respected local professionals.

The Wincheap duo have invited the students to watch trained butchers prepare other animals for sale at their shop in Wincheap High Street.

New apprentice Nigel is success number 600

WITH record number of youngsters in the jobless queue, a scheme in Medway is fighting back and has announced its 600th success.

Employ Medway helps jobseekers land a job and has been a major success, the council said.

Nigel Wren from Strood was recruited as an apprentice bricklayer on the Rochester Riverside housing development.

The 23-year-old had been after any sort of work for almost four years, before he went to the centre in High Street, Chatham, last October.

Just 10 weeks later, he landed his new role working for Owen Contractors Ltd.

He said: "I was always looking for a job but couldn't seem to get one for years. In the end I didn't think I was ever going to find work."

"Then my advisor at Employ Medway told me about this apprenticeship and introduced me to Zoe at the Skills and Employment Centre at Rochester Riverside.

"I really hoped I had a chance but wasn't confident. Zoe helped me get through an interview and arranged a work trial with Owen Contractors Ltd.

"I always wanted to work in construction because I like being outdoors and like making things. This apprenticeship has given me a real chance to get on in life."

His apprenticeship takes two years, during which he will be based on site and spend one day a week studying a diploma and NVQ in bricklaying at Mid-Kent College in Maidstone.

Being tooled up for building work helps, and the scheme made sure Nigel got a good start by supplying him with tools worth £75 from the council's EU funded SUCES project.

Owen Contractors director George McAllister, said: "It's great to have an apprentice on board and we're looking forward to showing Nigel the ropes and getting him involved in the project here at Rochester Riverside."

The contractor will gain a £2,000 subsidy towards Nigel's training costs as part of the council's apprenticeship subsidy scheme, GAPs.

Funding for the £200,000 scheme, launched last

October to help businesses with an apprentice's wage or

training costs, is split between the council and the Interreg 2

Seas programme, part funded by the European Regional

Development Fund.

The council's apprenticeship schemes have also seen more than 250 apprenticeships created at local businesses over the

past year, through both the subsidy scheme and the national 100 in 100 apprenticeship campaign, which created more than

190 trainee positions.

The Employ Medway Advice Centre was launched in September, 2009, and as well as helping jobseekers, has provided over 800 people with training on basic IT, interview and CV skills.

Medway businesses can also benefit from the council's Start-up grants and Partners for Growth loans for small firms.



WORK PROGRAMME: Medway Council's Cllr Jane Chitty and apprentice Nigel Wren

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

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Women Seeking

FEEMALE 58, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, cuddly, caring, likes animals, drink, good food, seeks likeminded male to share life with. Is that you? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383669

LYNDA very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar natured male for extra circular activities. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386653

KERRY blonde blue eyed cultured lady, very genuine, caring, seeking caring natured male 45-58 for loving romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386649

HI I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643

TINA new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625

SARA 31 tall and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTm tall down to earth stable male for poss LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611

CLAIRE 38 blue eyes, blonde, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380881

FEEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for relationship and good friend ship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079

CLARE attractive, petite, size 8, brown hair, blue eyes, likes theatre, walks, shopping, seeks genuine male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385673

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes 5ft 10, stays at home too much and looking for fun male with OHAC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373

GEM 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, extremely easygoing, WLTm genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369

DIANE single fit female, no children, OHAC, lots of free time, looking for a nice man to get to know and hopefully fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385351

RUTH slim funny 18yr old brunette who loves cuddles seeks genuine guy for friendship leading to more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385349

SUSIE 45, 5ft 8ins, student, outgoing, easygoing, likes the outdoors, museums, theatre, socialising, seeks likeminded male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389716

IVY May tall, slim, voluptuous, seeking older, generous, kind, caring male, 75-80 for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385505

LORRAINE 5ft 6ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387

32YR old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTm Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305

JENNY very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303

JUNE good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tlc. Genuine replies only pls. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301

SUE young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting, seeking single tactile male. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes foot ball, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047

LOOKING to start the New Year of with a bang? Faye open minded 20yr old female just looking for fun times. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383045

SANDRA 63, varied interests, cinema, walks, animals, meals out, N/S, social drinker, cuddly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385315

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774

CAROL alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sick of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383119

SHARON 5ft 7ins, slim blonde, attractive, funny, good job, nice home, sports car, well educated/travelled, newly single and looking for love. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383113

ERIN attractive petite divorcee with own home, looking for nights in/out, friendship and maybe more with mature male. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383111

ALEX attractive professional, separated, no ties, OHAC, seeks similar romantic male for love, companionship and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383049

MARIA 47, curly blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, size 14, GSOH, likes reading, walks, WLTm kind, friendly, fun loving gent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380509

MARY 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, fun loving, likes nights in/out, seeks male with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385239

KEIRA 34yr old very attractive female, fed up of staying in alone, looking for likeminded male for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384055

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, dvds, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337

LOOKING for a nice solo mate, dinners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life, I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589

AUDREY recently widowed, seeks lonely gent for friendship and conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381213

SHARON 50, widowed, looking for nice gent to take out to theatre, cinema, country walks and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384497

CARING genuine single mum, GSOH, 41, looking for genuine male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384349

NIAMH slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real woman. Or at least thinks he can. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051

KIM 37, slim blue eyed brunette, divorced with no ties, looking for a genuine convenient friendship/more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384049

SARA slim tall blonde bombshell, loves dancing, walking in the rain, WLTm genuine male loves life as much as I do. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384047

IN for a Penny in for a Pound. Gorgeous curvy figured attractive brunette, bubbly, outgoing and fun, looking for confident romantic companion. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383907

LONELY lady, retired nurse, 68, likes country/western music, nights in/out, GSOH, seeking male of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385835

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871

MAISY seeks male who likes dogs, country walks, beach, meals out and knows there own mind for a relationship and to build memories, fun loving lady 47. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383733

SHARON 37yr old attractive feminine size 10, employed, OHAC, single mum of one, seeking similar lonely male with mature outlook. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385655

DEBS slim attractive stylish 40 looking for male who is prepared to give me lots of attention for fun times in return. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385653

JEAN professional nurse attractive and all women! loves wining and dining seeking white knight who appreciates a real black beauty. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385651

JAN genuinely attractive voluptuous sensual female looking for companionship with loving man, 35-65yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385597

JULIE blonde blue eyed outgoing female, 31yrs, seeking laidback relationship with likeminded affectionate male, any age/looks or status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385595

RONNIE 39 looking for fun loving bit on the side! must have a GSOH and own home, I will provide the entertainment! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385593

KERRY 32yr old single mum of one, ready to move on with a new relationship, WLTm genuine male for dates, text fun and more. Pls Call. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383901

JO 28yr old Auburn haired beauty looking for a bit of fun back in her life, seeks male to make me smile again. Age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383899

46YR old single mum, caring, loving, GSOH, seeks male for lasting relationship. Must like children. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385101

CHRISTIAN 60yr old dog owner, likes countryside, culture, seeks likeminded kind man for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384989

LOVELY lonely lady, fit and active, many interests, seeks N/S fun loving guy with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384951

BERYL retired, looking for similar male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384635

TRACY 39, fun blue eyed blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTm professional male for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045

JO 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for fun and more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043

PAT 70's, 5ft, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389521

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386039

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTm uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-55yrs for companionship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389221

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to lose? Call me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201

LISA blonde 31yrs, extremely fit and outgoing, seeking male for casual friendship with benefits. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380879

TRISH tall slim brunette, honest, reliable, affectionate, OHAC, no ties, outgoing, loves Indian food, seeking male 39-50yrs for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380877

CAROL attractive lady of leisure, solvent, OHAC, WLTm sincere gent willing to entertain and share all of life's indulgences with me. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380857

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful lady. Any looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381363

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTm male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, no materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891

CHERYL young 54, attractive, petite, brunette, slim, likes most things, easygoing, looking for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141

CHRIS 33, likes marathon running, nights out, cinema, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382959

EASYGOING cheerful, decent man, 64, 6ft, 13st, blue eyes, educated, romantic, seeks nice, slim, elegant female, 47-57. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382933

PAUL 65, caring, likes socialising, pubs, meals out, coastal walks, football, darts, nights in, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384819

IAN blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, likes pubs, meals out, holidays, cinema, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384817

SINCERE warm man, 66, 5ft 9ins, seeks affectionate lady for fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384371

CANTERBURY male, 56, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim black/white/Asian/Oriental female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379673

DAVID 65, slim, 5ft 8ins, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384707

YOUNG male, 55, seeks attractive black girlfriend, N/S, likes country pubs, seaside, music, semi professional musician. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383151

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574

KATH 41 slim size 10, attractive and hardworking, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks cuddly romantic guy for tlc and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386269

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503

KATIE pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205

CLARE petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interests, seeking male for mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203

SEAN likes nights out, seeks female for dates, fun times and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385457

MALE 57 seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385455

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, likes holidays, music, theatre, countryside, walks, cinema, meals out, seeking female, 35-64 for happy LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386071

MALE 55, VGSOH, saga reject, styled by Rigsby, 5ft 10ins, fit, seeks female, 45-60 for fun, romance and whatever happens. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386035

ROBERT 5ft 6ins, dark hair, easygoing, seeks petite, easygoing lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389790

MALE seeks female for nights out, coast, meals out days out and to share home life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385891

GRAHAM 51, stocky, tanned, OHAC, likes a laugh, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381215

PAUL 42, 6ft, dark hair/eyes, seeks younger female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381191

JOHN gay male, 51, not scene, 15st, blue eyes, smoker, likes football, films, seeks younger 18-24 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384463

PAUL looking for someone for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379827

MARTIN bi CD, 50's, seeks similar for fun times. Can accommodate or travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374351

BI guy, looking for older gent, 50-60's for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372943

ALAN experienced bi male, seeks similar guy or couple for friendship and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379059

LEN min 60's, looking for active male, 55-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377261

MALE 42, clean shaven, seeks younger playmate for fun and games. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385465

CHRIS 33, likes marathon running, nights out, cinema, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382959

EASYGOING cheerful, decent man, 64, 6ft, 13st, blue eyes, educated, romantic, seeks nice, slim, elegant female, 47-57. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382933

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IAN blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, likes pubs, meals out, holidays, cinema, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384817

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Fri 6–Mon 9 April	British Superbike Championship
Sat/Sun 21/22 April	British Truck Racing Championship
Fri 18–Sun 20 May	DTM (German Touring Cars)
Sat/Sun 26/27 May	Masters Historic Festival
Sat/Sun 16/17 June	Mini Festival
Sat/Sun 23/24 June	British F3/GT Championships
Sat/Sun 30 June/1 July	The HSCC Historic Superprix
Sun 8 July	Modified Live
Fri 13–Sun 15 July	FIA Formula Two/International GT Open
Fri 20–Sun 22 July	British Superbike Championship
Sat/Sun 18/19 August	Lotus Festival
Wed–Sat 5–8 September	The Paralympic Games Road Cycling
Fri 12–Sun 14 October	British Superbike Championship
Sat/Sun 20/21 October	British Touring Car Championship
Sat/Sun 3/4 November	British Truck Racing Championship
Sat 24 November	Britcar 'Into the Night' Race

Please note all dates are provisional and subject to change



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FULL MARKS



IN THE WORKPLACE: Apprenticeships offer a wonderful opportunity for unemployed young people to kick-start their careers and learn crucial skills, too

APPRENTICESHIPS

Learning on the job can help build your future

APPRENTICESHIPS and job opportunities are hot topics at the moment as various Government schemes come under the microscope and the issue of youth unemployment creates widespread concern.

Learning and training are extremely important areas where schools, colleges, business and local authorities can work together for the benefit of all.

The Coalition Government recently announced a new initiative, led by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, which will put £126 million into a scheme aimed at encouraging NEETS (teens who are not in education, employment or training) to obtain some form of work or education.

Forming part of the Government's youth contract scheme to address growing youth unemployment, it aims to provide businesses and charities with the chance of applying for up to £2,200 of funding to employ them.

With youth unemployment hitting 1.04 million in December

2011, it is vital to take action and ensure these more important years in a young person's career are not squandered.

Meanwhile, a commission chaired by Labour's David Miliband has called for co-ordinated action to address the lack of leadership in addressing hot-spots of youth unemployment.

The report, commissioned by Acevo, the voluntary and charity groups organisation, suggests the Government needs to re-vamp the Department For Work And Pensions work programme so that it addresses more urgently the tens of thousands of young unemployed – with one of the main ar-

reas being addressed by all parties.

Young people need to be 16 or over to apply for an apprenticeship. Entry requirements will depend on the apprenticeship they want to do and there are three levels:

■ Intermediate (equivalent to five good GCSE passes).

■ Advanced level (equivalent to two A-level passes).

■ Higher apprenticeships (lead to qualifications at NVQ level 4 or, in some cases, a foundation degree).

Depending on grades in GCSE maths and English, applicants may need to take a literacy and numeracy test.

Young people aged 16-24 who need to improve their

skills to get an apprenticeship might be able to join the Access To Apprenticeship scheme.

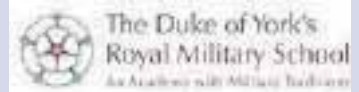
This is run by the National Apprenticeship Service and helps young people deal with the disciplines and routines of the workplace.

A new national minimum wage of £2.60 per hour for apprentices was introduced on October 1, 2011. This applies to all apprentices aged 19 or over in the first year of their apprenticeship.

Any person already doing an apprenticeship with an employer should continue to get a weekly wage of at least £95. If they work in agriculture, the minimum wage may be different.

Many employers tend to pay more as apprentices develop their skills. Research has found that the average apprentice takes home about £170 per week.

Like most other employees, apprentices get at least 20 days' paid holiday per year and bank holidays, too.



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We are proud of our pupils' academic achievements. The school's GCSE results are double the national average: in 2011, 93 per cent of pupils gained five or more GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent, including English and mathematics, with more than 95 per cent passing at A-level.

On top of this, more than 90 per cent of our students choose to go on to university.

With a focus on leadership, self-discipline, respect and teamwork and ceremonial parades, the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme and Combined Cadet Force activities are at the heart of the school. As it is full boarding, your child will never be bored as they are kept busy with more than 70 clubs and activities from which to choose.

Kay Pott, who has a son attending the school, said: "The school has been fantastic. We are over the moon with the way they've brought our son on – we can't praise them enough."

"We feel he's done better academically than he would have done at another school. He's good at sport and has been on trips abroad to Spain, South Africa and America."

"I really value the school's ethos – they instil respect for yourself and others and build up the pupils' self-esteem in different ways so the children become confident young men and women."

The school, which became an academy last year, has been awarded £24.9m to transform boarding houses and teaching facilities. In 2010, it received £9.5m from academy sponsor the Ministry of Defence to build a sixth-form boarding house. The academy's specialisms are science, sports, music and outdoor education.

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Childcare Co-ordinator (Job Ref: EDS/668)**Grade: B1 - Salary: £22,958 - £30,851 per annum****Hours: Full time****Location: Based at Blossoms Day Nursery****Wayfield Children's Centre****Wayfield Road, Chatham, Kent ME5 0HH**

The governors are seeking to appoint a knowledgeable, motivational, enthusiastic and hard working person to manage their Day Nursery at Wayfield Children's Centre.

Blossoms Day Nursery is a 33 place nursery for children aged between 2 and 5 years old. The Nursery is open between the hours of 8:30am and 5pm for 52 weeks a year.

A new Childcare Co-ordinator is required to manage and co-ordinate the childcare provision and practices within the Children's Centre and to manage the staff team, volunteers and students involved in the nursery.

This is a fantastic opportunity to join a dynamic nursery and Children's Centre Team and to further your career.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to visit the centre.

Our Children's Centre is committed to the safeguarding and welfare of our children. All appointments will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced CRB Disclosure and satisfactory references.

For more information, or an application pack, please contact Sue Arnold on 01634 336350.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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Start Date: As soon as possible

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Showroom Demonstrator

- Location: Aylesford Maidstone
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- Categories: customer service, demonstrator
- Closing Date: 12/03/2012

Description

SLIDEROBES® goal is to make its customers happy by helping them transform their space. Our products are value-for-money, expertly designed and tailor-made for our customers' needs. We work together to deliver the friendliest, least hassle and most professional service in the market for our customers.

We are seeking a Part time Showroom Demonstrator to join our Maidstone showroom team.

Role Responsibilities

The role involves:

- Being the first point of contact for customers when they visit or call the showroom.
- Identifying customer needs and demonstrating how SLIDEROBES® storage solutions can meet these, aiming to secure qualified homedesign appointments for the team of Designers.
- Working to the SLIDEROBES® standards to ensure that we deliver the friendliest, least hassle and most professional service in our market.

Essential Criteria

Personal profile:

- Previous experience in demonstrating or selling is desirable, but not essential. You will need to have a friendly, out-going personality and be genuinely interested in people.
- Naturally, good, all round communication skills are required.
- We have a strong team working ethos in our business so you will need to be an organised, focused team player, willing to go the extra mile to ensure the team achieves its goals.
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Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road,
Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 9.3.12

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We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

SKILLS PRACTITIONER (AUTOMOTIVE)

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students within the Division and to undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies.

Salary Scale: £8,567 - £10,123 for 18.5 hours per week, all year

Benefits include: Final salary contributory pension and 23 days pro rata holiday.

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Wednesday 7th March 2012
Interview date: Thursday 22nd March 2012

**Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination**




THANET COLLEGE
RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

WORK PLACEMENT OFFICER

To organise work placements, assess students and monitor attendance and progress on a range of early years work experience placements.

Salary Scale: £17,133 - £20,246 for 37 hours per week, all year

Benefits include: Final salary contributory pension and 23 days holiday.

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Wednesday 7th March 2012
Interview date: Tuesday 20th March 2012

**Promoting Equality
Preventing Discrimination**




THANET COLLEGE
RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

PROGRAMME LEADER - WOOD TRADES

To deliver high quality teaching and learning, lead the effective co-ordination and development of programmes and take a lead role in the planning and delivery of specified programmes within the Programme Area.

Salary Scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week, all year

Benefits include: Final salary contributory pension and 41 days holiday.

Interview date: Friday 16th March 2012

SKILLS PRACTITIONER (CONSTRUCTION)

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students within the Division and to undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies.

Salary Scale: £8,567 - £10,123 for 18.5 hours per week, all year

Benefits include: Final salary contributory pension and 23 days pro rata holiday.

Interview date: Tuesday 13th March 2012

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in ICT

Ref: P0583
Salary: £23,043 - £29,020 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway
Hourly Paid/Variable Hours positions also available

The College is looking for an energetic, enthusiastic and forward-thinking individual who has both industry knowledge of, and the ability to teach a range of subjects within our current range of BTEC IT qualifications up to Level 3. This might include: hardware, networking, programming, systems support, games design, animation or other discipline within our curriculum area. An effective team player, you will have excellent communication skills and eager to innovate, respond flexibly to industry demands and contribute to the development of the IT curriculum area. The successful candidate must have at least a level 3 qualification or equivalent in a Computing related subject with a Cert Ed/PGCE teaching qualification or have a willingness to undertake a formal teaching qualification to required national standards. Recent experience of teaching young people up to Level 3 would be advantageous.

Events and Promotions Officer

Ref: P0114
Salary: £17,050 - £21,339 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway

We are seeking a positive, creative and enthusiastic candidate to co-ordinate both internal and external promotional events including Open Evenings, Advice & Enrolment Sessions, and Staff and Student Awards Ceremonies. The successful candidate will have experience of organising and implementing large-scale events and promotional activities, along with excellent organisational and presentation skills. An understanding of post-16 education and training and a degree level qualification, preferably in Marketing and/or Events Management, is desirable.

Examinations Administrator

Ref: T0156
Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Fixed Term Maternity Cover Medway

We are looking to appoint a confident individual to provide administration support for examinations in liaison with the Examinations Manager and to provide examination administrative support to academic faculties. The successful candidate will have Good organisational and administrative skills and have experience working within an office environment or a qualification equivalent.

Apprentice in Business Administration


Ref: P0086
Medway

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in our Finance Department. The successful candidate will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level within Business Administration.
Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion.

Closing date: 12 noon, Wednesday 14 March 2012

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.



PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk Community & Planning Services Department

Cleansing Supervisor

£30,566 - £33,355

Sevenoaks District Council provides Cleansing services across the District through its Direct Services Organisation. Sevenoaks Direct Services is proud to have high standards in collection of refuse, recycling and street cleaning services. You will be responsible for the day to day supervision of the Street Cleansing services.

Your regular duties will involve the allocation of personnel and vehicles to ensure daily street cleansing operations are completed safely and satisfactorily. You will be responsible for updating street cleansing round schedules as we strive for continuous improvement.

With a working knowledge of vehicle operator licensing, driver licencing and working hours' legislation, you will assist the Transport Manager in ensuring legal compliance. You will be responsible for matters of staff training, induction, appraisal, control, discipline and recruitment for staff reporting to the post.

You will have good knowledge of the Health and Safety at Work Act and related legislation. Your written and spoken communication skills will allow you to communicate effectively with customers, crews, managers, and other supervisors.

For an informal discussion about this post, please contact John Cox, Cleansing Manager on 01959 567375.

To apply online please visit our website @ www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/jobs. You may also contact the Human Resources team for an information pack and application form by calling 01732 227 383 or by emailing recruitment@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Closing date: Monday 26 March 2012.

Interview date: Wednesday 4 April 2012.

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MARRIAGE LICENCES

Kent County Council - The Marriage Act 1949 and Civil Partnership Act 2004
Approved Premises for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships

An application has been made by Mr James Burdis of Stable House, off Street End, Lower Hardres to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the following address: Giles Adey, Head of Registration, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

A building certified for worship named World Mission Agency - Winners Chapel International, Block A, Green Street, Green Road, Dartford in the registration district of Kent, in the Non-Metropolitan County/Metropolitan District/London Borough of Kent, was on 2nd November 2011 registered for solemnising marriages therein pursuant to section 41 of the Marriage Act 1949 as amended by Section 1 (1) of the Marriage Acts Amendment Act, 1958. In lieu of Winners Chapel, Unit B1 & B2, Galleywall Trading Estate, Southwark now disused and the registration cancelled thereof.
Superintendent Registrar
18 November 2011

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE
NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR691, NEWINGTON)
PUBLIC PATH CREATION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 17 February 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to add a new length of Public Footpath numbered ZR691, which commences on Orchard Drive to the north of No. 6 at NGR TQ 8538 6453 (Point A) and runs in a west north westerly through west south westerly direction for 32 metres to Point B (NGR TQ 8535 6454). The path then continues to run for 74 metres in a west south westerly thence south south westerly direction running through the recreation ground to meet with the surfaced path leading to the Pavilion (NGR TQ 8532 6447 (Point C)). The path has a width of 2.0 metres between Point A (NGR TQ 8538 6453) and Point B (NGR TQ 8535 6454) and a width of 1.0 metres as it passes through the recreation ground between Point B (NGR TQ 8535 6454) and Point C (NGR TQ 8532 6447). There will be pedestrian gates at NGR TQ 8538 6453 (Point A) and at NGR TQ 8535 6454 (Point B). The gates will conform to BS 5709:2006. That section of path between NGR TQ 8535 6454 (Point B) and NGR TQ 8532 6447 (Point C) will have a compacted stone surface.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 16 March 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 4 March 2012, make an application to the High Court.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH RUNNING BETWEEN ORCHARD DRIVE AND THE RECREATION GROUND AT NEWINGTON)
PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER 2011

On 17 February 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under section 118 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to extinguish the entire width of that length of the Public Footpath which commences on Orchard Drive opposite No.13 (NGR TQ 8535 6446 (Point A)) and runs in a west north westerly direction for 26 metres to its connection with the recreation ground at NGR TQ 8532 6447 (Point B).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 16 March 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 4 March 2012, make an application to the High Court.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR175, BREDGAR)
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2010

On 21st February 2012 an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a public footpath with a width of 2 metres which commences at the junction of Deans Bottom (U11054) and Kennel Barn Road (U1922), (point A) and running in a generally southerly direction for approximately 362.7 metres, to its connection with the existing length of public footpath ZR175 (point B). (Between the points A and B on the Order Plan).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during office hours at the offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 21st February 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 4th March 2012 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 4th March 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

**A2042 ROMNEY MARSH ROAD, ASHFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A2042 Romney Marsh Road, Ashford, as shown below.

The road will be closed from 5 March 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 9.00 pm and 5.00 am each night.

The closure will be between the junctions with Norman Road and Victoria Road / Beaver Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between Romney Marsh Road and Ashford.

The alternative route is via Victoria Road, Leacon Road, B2229 Brookfield Road, Beaver Lane and Norman Road.

**BLACKWALL ROAD, ASHFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Blackwall Road, Ashford, on or after 19 March 2012 for up to 5 weeks as shown below.

BLACKWALL ROAD NORTH will be closed between the junctions with Kennington Road and Blackwall Road from 19 March 2012 for up to 3 days.

The alternative route is via A2070 Kennington Road and Blackwall Road South.

BLACKWALL ROAD will be closed between the junctions with Blackwall Road North / South and Goodcheap Lane from 22 March 2012 for up to 4 weeks.

The alternative route is via Blackwall Road North/South, A2070 Kennington Road, The Street, Hinxhill Road, Naccolt Road, Blackwall and Blackwall Road.

**SCHOOL HILL, WAREHORNE, ASHFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water mains renewal works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on School Hill, Warehorne, Ashford, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 13 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with B2067 Ashford Road and Spot House Lane.

The alternative route is via Spot House Lane, Woodchurch Road, Malthouse Lane and B2067 Warehorne Road.

**SNARGATE ROAD, KENARDINGTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Snargate Road, Kenardington, on or after 22 March 2012 for up to 7 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Higham Farm. The alternative route is via Kenardington Road, B2080 The Street, Station Road (Rhee Wall), Arrowhead Lane, Hogg Lane and Snargate Road.

HIGHWAYS - DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY

**B2205 SEA STREET, WHITSTABLE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to repair a street light fault, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2205 Sea Street, Whitstable, on or after 19 March 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

This closure will have the following effects on traffic in Whitstable.

SEA STREET - will be closed in the vicinity of The Sail Lifts.

- There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Red Lion Lane and Leggett's Lane.

- The alternative route is via Harbour Street.
- The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Sea Street will be suspended from the point of closure for access only.
- There will be No Right Turn from Sea Street into the northern junction with Harbour Street.

HARBOUR STREET - will be closed to westbound traffic from the western entrance to The Harbour.

- There will be no access to westbound through traffic

between the junctions with Cromwell Road and The High Street. Access will be maintained up to The Harbour.

- The alternative route is via Cromwell Road, Oxford Street and High Street
- The One-way Traffic Order between the Woodlawn Street and High Street will be reversed, so that traffic flows eastbound from The High Street direction
- The bus stops will be moved to the north side of Harbour Street, with some parking will allowed on the south side

CROMWELL ROAD - will be closed to east bound traffic at the junction with Oxford Street.

- There will be no access into Cromwell Road from Oxford Street
- The alternative route is via Oxford Street, High Street, Harbour Street and Cromwell Road

HIGH STREET - Will be closed to southbound traffic at the junction with Terys Lane

- Traffic will be routed via Harbour Street, Cromwell Road, Oxford Street and High Street

HORSEBRIDGE ROAD - The one-way order Traffic Order will be suspended to allow access from the junction with Red Lion Lane to the junction with Terys Lane

RED LION LANE - There will be No Right Turn into Harbour Street.

VICTORIA STREET, ALBERT STREET & WOODLAWN STREET There will be No Left Turn into Harbour Street from each of these roads.

**BOGSHOLE ROAD AND GOLDEN HILL, WHITSTABLE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bogshole Road and Golden Hill, Whitstable, on or after 19 March until 28 March 2012 inclusive, apart from Sunday.

The planned work times are between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm each day, with the roads re-opened outside these hours.

The roads will be closed in phases between the junctions with Clapham Hill and Eversleigh Rise, as signposted on site.

The alternative route is via A290 Clapham Hill and A2990 (Old) Thanet Way.

Access will be maintained whenever it is safe to do so, but there are likely to be times when this is not possible, due to the use of machinery.

**BROOMFIELD ROAD, HERNE AND BROOMFIELD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broomfield Road, Herne and Broomfield, on or after 19 March 2012 for up to 5 days between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed in phases between the junctions with Hawe Farm Way and Margate Road, as advised locally and signposted on site.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Mill Lane, Hunters Forstal Road and Margate Road. Local signposted diversions are likely to be in place for some of the works.

**DANE JOHN FOOTBRIDGE, CANTERBURY (RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to replace the parapet rails on the footbridge, Kent County Council has made an Order to close Dane John Footbridge, Canterbury, as shown below.

It is planned that the footbridge will be closed on Sunday 11th March and 18th March 2012 between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The alternative route for pedestrians is via Dane John Gardens subway under A28 Rhodaus Town and Station Road East.

**MERCERY LANE, CANTERBURY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mercery Lane, Canterbury, on or after 19 March 2012 for up to one week, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Buttermarket.

There is no suitable diversion, but there will be limited access from High Street / Parade up to the point of closure.

**ST ALPHEGE LANE & ST RADIGUND'S STREET,
CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of cable ducting in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Alphege Lane & St Radigund's Street, Canterbury, on or after 19 March 2012 as shown below.

ST ALPHEGE LANE will be closed from 19 March 2012 for up to 3 weeks.

The alternative route is via Palace Street, Orange Street and King Street.

PALACE STREET will be closed for 1-2 nights at the end of this 3-week period, as advised locally and signposted on site.

The alternative route is via King Street and Orange Street.

When Palace Street is closed the No Entry Order in respect of King Street, at the junction with Palace Street, will be suspended.

ST RADIGUND'S STREET will be closed from 10 April 2012 for up to 1 week.

The closure will be from the junction with Borough/Northgate for a distance of approximately 30 metres.

The alternative route is via Northgate, Kingsmead Road, St Stephen's Road, The Causeway, Pound Lane and St Radigund's Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of St Radigund's Street will be suspended whilst it is closed, between the junction with Knott's Lane and the point of closure to allow access, when the relevant signs are covered.

STURRY LEVEL CROSSING, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential works to replace the rails at the level crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sturry Level Crossing, Canterbury, on or after 10 March 2012 as shown below
A28 Mill Road, Sturry will be closed for a distance of approximately 30 metres either side of the level crossing.

The road will be closed from Saturday 10 March 2012 at 1.15 am until Monday 12 March 2012 at 4.00 am.

The alternative routes are

Light vehicles and buses via Sturry Hill, A291 Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, A28 Sturry Road and Mill Road.

All Vehicles over 7.5 T (except buses) via Sturry Hill, A291 Herne Bay Road, Canterbury Road, A299 Thanet Way, A290 Clapham Hill, Pean Hill, Honey Hill, Blean Common, Blean Hill, London Road, A2050 Rheims Way, A28 Ring Road, Sturry Road and Mill Road

Temporary provision will be made for pedestrians during these works

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford and in District of Sevenoaks

VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD, DARENTH AND SOUTH DARENTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads in Dartford, Darenth and South Darenth as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 25th March 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the event is planned to last 1 day between 09.00hrs - 12.00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road name: Darenth Road, Dartford

Extent: Southbound from David Lloyds Entrance

Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for 10 minutes

Road name: Powdermill Lane, Dartford

Extent: Between its junctions with Darenth Road and Warwick Way

Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for 10 minutes

Road name: Warwick Way, Dartford

Extent: Between its junctions with Powdermill Lane and Hawley Road

Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for 10 minutes

Road name: A225 Hawley Road, South Darenth

Extent: Between its junctions with Warwick Way and Parsonage Lane

Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for 10 minutes

Road name: Parsonage Lane, Hawley/Darenth

Extent: Between its junctions with Hawley Road and Roman Villa Road.

Diversion: Signed Diversion route from Parsonage Lane roundabout to Darenth Hill roundabout (and vice versa) via Hawley Road, Princes Road and Green St Green Rd and the reverse

Road name: Darenth Hill, Darenth

Extent: Between its junctions Roman Villa Road and Green Street Green Road.

Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: Roman Villa Road, Darenth

Extent: Between its junctions with Darenth Hill and Holmesdale Hill

Diversion: A225 Hawley Road and A225 Princes Road

Road name: Rabbits Road, South Darenth

Extent: Between its junctions with Shrubbery Road and Canada Farm Road

Diversion: Shrubbery Road, Holmesdale Hill, St Margarets Road and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road name: Gills Road, South Darenth

Extent: Between its junctions with Holmesdale Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road

Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: Wilson Lane, South Darenth

Extent: Between its junctions with Gills Road and Rabbits Road

Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: Canada Farm Road, South Darenth

Extent: Between its junctions with Three Gates Road and B260 Green Street Green Road

Diversion: Valley Road, Fawkham Road and B260 Green Street Green Road

Road name: St Margarets Road, Darenth ONE WAY from Homesdale Hill

Extent: To B260 Green Street Green Road

Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road

Road name: St Margarets Road, Darenth

Extent: closed at its junction with B260 Green Street Green Road

Diversion: No diversion required closure will be in place for 10 minutes

Road name: Darenth Hill

Extent: Between its junctions with Roman Villa Road to B260 Green Street Green Road

Diversion: B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road and A225 Hawley Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the event, Les Witton Dartford 10KM

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

A260 THE STREET, DENTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway surfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A260 The Street, Denton, on or after 24 March 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Denton Lane and Agester Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between Hawkinge and the A2.

The alternative route is via A260 Canterbury Road, Oak Hill, Swanton Lane, Lydden Hill, A2 Dover Road, (Old Dover Road in reverse) and A260 Canterbury Road.

COOMBE VALLEY ROAD, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a railway bridge safety inspection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coombe Valley Road, Dover, from 19 March 2012 at 10.00 pm until Tuesday 20 March at 6.00 am.

The road will be closed approximately 10 metres either side of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via London Road, Crabble Hill, Crabble Road, Crabble Avenue, Hillside Road, Bunkers Hill Road, St Radigund's Road, Banwick Road and Coombe Valley Road plus Buckland Avenue, Cherry Tree Avenue and London Road for the eastbound diversion.

DOVER ROAD AND UPPER ROAD, GUSTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to refurbish bridges over the A2 Trunk Road, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dover Road and Upper Road, Guston, as shown below.

DOVER ROAD will be closed from 19 March 2012 for up to 3 nights.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the bridge over the A2 Trunk Road.

The alternative route is via Dover Road, A258 Castle Hill Road, Deal Road, Hangman's Lane, The Lane and Dover Road.

UPPER ROAD will be closed from 22 March 2012 for up to 2 nights.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the bridge over the A2 Jubilee Way.

The alternative route is via A258 Deal Road, Dover Road, High Street, Reach Road and Upper Road

The planned work times are from 8.00 pm until 6.00 am each night, with the roads re-opened during the days, with traffic controlled by temporary traffic lights.

SHEPHERDSWELL ROAD, EYTHORNE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Shepherdswell Road, Eythorne, Dover, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction with Church Hill / Shooters Hill and Eythorne Court.

There will be no through access between Shepherdswell and Eythorne.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Great Haynes, Coldred Road, Chapel Hill and Shooters Hill

Westbound via Church Hill, Barfestone Road and Long Lane via the un-named road linking them.

STRAND STREET, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Strand Street, Sandwich, on or after 19 March 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Hamet Street and Potter Street.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Strand Street, Ash Road, A256 Sandwich By-Pass and Ramsgate Road.

The One-Way Traffic Order in respect of Strand Street will be suspended between the junctions with Potter Street and High Street, for access only.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 12) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to prohibit waiting at any time at the following locations:-

Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne

On the east side of the road, from a point 3m South west of the boundary of numbers 92 and 94 Capel Street, in a southerly direction for a distance of 26m

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Kent, CT16 3PJ during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to Traffic Schemes Team., Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk

by noon on Monday 26 March 2012.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 11) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to prohibit waiting at any time at the following locations:-

Gardners Close, Ash

On both sides of the road from the junction with Sandwich Road in a southerly direction for a distance of 20 metres.

Sandwich Road, Ash

On the south side of the road, from the junction with Gardners Close for 10m in each direction

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Kent, CT16 3PJ during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to Traffic Schemes Team., Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk

by noon on Monday 26 March 2012.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

HARVEL ROAD, MEOPHAM - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council Has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in Harvel Road, Meopham with the junctions of Waterlow Road to White House Lane.

The Order will become effective on 5th March 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks between the hours of 08:00 to 17:00. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: White Horse Lane, Harvel Street, Whitehill Road, The Street, A227 Wrotham Road and Gravesend Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching works.

KING STREET, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY) TRAFFIC ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to an Order to Temporally suspend the current one way traffic on King Street, Gravesend from its junction with Parrock Street and Windmill Street and for New Road from Windmill Street to Princes Street.

The Order will become effective on 19th March 2012 will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; and last 7 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Parrock Street, Lord Street, Windmill Street, Woodville Place, Wrotham Road, Barrack Row, Clive Road, Darnley Road, Barth Street, West Street, Church Street and New Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway and footway patching works.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOARLEY LANE, BOXLEY) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Boarley Lane between Sandling Lane and The Old Mill House on or after Monday 19th March 2012 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Boarley Lane, Grange Lane, Boxley Road, Sandling Lane.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for drainage improvements. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458 247 800

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CARING LANE, LEEDS/THURNHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Caring Lane on or after Monday 5th March 2012 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Forge Lane, Old Mill Road, A20 Ashford Road, Otham Street, Caring Road.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for cabling works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Rachel Cross of Ashtead Plant Hire Company Ltd on 03700 500792.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHARLTON LANE, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE) (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2012**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 1984**

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 82 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, intends to make the following Order:-

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 30 mph Speed Limit on the following length of road:

Charlton Lane, From its junction with Ewell Lane in West Farleigh a north westerly direction to its junction with Lower Road.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ,

between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, The Gateway, King Street, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to support or object to the new proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HEADINGLEY ROAD, ALLINGTON) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Headingley Road between Maxwell Drive and Allington Way on or after Saturday 24th March 2012 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Conway Road, A20 London Road, Allington Way.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for carriageway resurfacing works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is John Reynolds on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

COBDEN ROAD, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Cobden Road at the junction with Quakers Hall Lane.

The Order will become effective on 04 March 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 09 March 2012 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Quakers Hall Lane, St Johns Hill, Holly Bush Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the installation of floor panels to a new development.

COBDEN ROAD, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Cobden Road at the junction with Quakers Hall Lane.

The Order will become effective on 18th March 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 20th March 2012 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Quakers Hall Lane, St Johns Hill, Holly Bush Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the installation of a roof to a new development.

SANDY LANE, SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Sandy Lane, Sevenoaks between junction of Quakers Hall Lane and Hartsland Road.

The Order will become effective on 18 March 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 19 March 2012 and will last approx 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the

For further information, please contact

Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Quakers Hall Lane and Hartsland Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate footway resurfacing works.

SEAL HOLLOW ROAD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Seal Hollow Road

The Order will become effective on 18 March 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 19 March 2012 and will last for approx 8 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: A25 Seal Road, A225 St Johns Hill, A225 Dartford Road, B2019 Seal Hollow Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate repair to a stone wall.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

CHURCH ROAD, NEW ROMNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new water meter and pipework, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, New Romney, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Triton Lane and Church Approach.

The alternative route is via Church Lane, Wiles Avenue, Marsh Crescent, The Churchlands and Church Road.

DUCK STREET, ELHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cable repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Duck Street, Elham, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of St Mary's Church.

The alternative routes are

EASTBOUND via The Square, Pound Lane, Vicarage Lane, Lickpot Hill, Standard Hill Top, Running Hill and Duck Street

WESTBOUND via Running Hill, Standard Hill Top, Lickpot Hill, Oak Hill, Bereforstal Hill, Canterbury Road, St Mary's Road and The Square.

STAPLE LANE, POSTLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow access to the carriageway for phone cable repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Staple Lane, Postling, on or after 20 March 2012 for up to 3 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day.

The road will be closed between the junction with The Street / Pilgrims Way and Tupper Cottage.

The alternative route is via The Street, Cuckoo Lane, Sandling Road and Staple Lane.

Access will be maintained whenever it is safe to do so, but there may be times when this is not possible, due to the use of machinery.

TRINITY GARDENS, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of sewer repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Trinity Gardens, Folkestone, on or after 19 March 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Sandgate Road.

The alternative routes are via A2033 Sandgate Road, A259 Earl's Avenue and Bouverie Road West or A2033 Sandgate Road, Castle Hill Avenue and Bouverie Road West.

This closure is in conjunction with temporary traffic lights in Sandgate Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

WATERHAM ROAD, HERNHILL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to re-build a culvert, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Waterham Road, Hernhill, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with the A299.

The alternative route is via A299 Thanet Way and Highstreet Road.

WISES LANE, BORDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wises Lane, Borden, between 5 March 2012 and 20 March 2012 as detailed below.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Maylam Gardens and The Street. There will be no access from Cryalls Lane into Wises Lane.

The alternative route for through traffic is via The Street, Borden Lane and A2 London Road.

HIGHWAYS - THANET & DOVER

A256 RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH & SANDWICH ROAD / RICHBOROUGH WAY, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public during demolition works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic and pedestrians as detailed below, on or after Sunday 11 March 2012 for up to 1 day.

The closure should be completed within one hour during the morning, as signposted on site.

If it is not possible for these works to go ahead on 11 March 2012, they will be deferred until one of the following 2 Sundays.

The A256 Ramsgate Road, Sandwich & Sandwich Road / Richborough Way, Ramsgate, will be closed in the vicinity of Richborough Port.

There will be no access for through traffic between the north junction with A256 Sandwich By-pass and the new Sevenscore Roundabout.

The alternative route will be indicated by appropriate signage on the day.

Public Footpath EE42 will be closed where it meets the exclusion zone, as indicated by signs and barriers on site.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

CAMDEN ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance to underground structures, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Camden Road, Ramsgate, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 7.

The alternative route is via Abbots Hill, Cottage Road and Hibernia Street.

FOADS LANE, CLIFFS END, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage works in connection with the East Kent Access Project, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Foads Lane (Foads Hill), Cliffs End, Ramsgate, on or after 7 March 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the north of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Cliffs End Road, A256 Sandwich Road, Lord of the Manor Interchange, A299 Canterbury Road West and Foads Hill.

Pedestrian access will be maintained across the level crossing.

VICTORIA ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Victoria Road, Margate, on or after 5 March 2012 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed. The road will be closed in phases between the junctions with Addington Road and St John's Road.

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended in respect of Victoria Road between Addington Road and St John's Road to allow access up to the point of closure.

The alternative route is via Thanet Road, Park Crescent Road, Addiscombe Road, St Peter's Footpath, Church Street and Victoria Road

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (EAST STREET, TONBRIDGE) (ONE WAY ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by westbound traffic on East Street between Hadlow Road and Lyons Crescent on or after Monday 19th March 2012 for a period of up to 12 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Bordyke, B2260 High Street, Lyons Crescent.

Murray Birrell apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for building works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Steven Dennis on 01689 898288.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (ISMAYS ROAD, IGHTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ismays Road Ightham, outside Tree Tops on or after Tuesday 6th March 2012 when required for a period of up to 2 Days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Coach Road, Sandy lane and Common Road and vice versa.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused but it is necessary to enable access for polling works. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Louise Skull on 03700500792.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KIBBLES LANE SOUTHBOROUGH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Kibbles Lane Southborough from the junction with Manor Road on or after Monday 5th March 2012 when required for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Speldhurst Road, London Road and Victoria Road.

Kent Highways Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by the essential carriageway patching. Should you require any further information about these works, please contact Jonathan Dean on 08458 2470800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (MILL LANE, IGHTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mill Lane on or after Tuesday 6th March 2012 for a period of up to 4 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via A227 Bates Hill/The Street/Borough Green Road/A25 Borough Green Road/Sevenoaks Road, Quarry Hill Road, Thong Lane.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for carriageway patching. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Jez Massy on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (B2016 SEVEN MILE LANE, OFFHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on B2016 Seven Mile Lane from Highlands House to Mereworth Lawn on or after Thursday 22nd March 2012 for one night between 21:00hrs - 05:00hrs, two days between 09:30hrs - 15:00hrs and one night between 21:00hrs - 05:00hrs or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via A20 London Road, A228 Ashton Way/King Hill/Malling Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to carry out carriageway resurfacing. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Robert Seggie on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WATERMAN'S LANE, BRENCHELY) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Waterman's Lane on or after Monday 19th March 2012 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Mile Oak Road, Mascall's Court Lane, Mascall's Court Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to re-build a culvert. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Steve Lambert on 08458 247 800.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 4th March 2012

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on **01303 817044**

PLANNING

CANTERBURY
CITY COUNCIL

Planning applications

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
 Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/11/01907/FUL: Upper Garrington Farmhouse, Bekesbourne Lane, Ickham Conversion of upper floor of stable building to annexe.
Applicant: Mr D Lench Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/11/02038/LB: 34 Whitstable Road, Canterbury, CT2 8DQ Internal and external alterations **Applicant: Mr and Mrs D Cockburn**
 Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/11/02193/FUL: 272 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3TY Replacement windows and door. **Applicant: Mrs Norton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/11/02199/FUL: 1 Oxford Road, Canterbury, CT1 3QF Construction of decking to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Munns**
 Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00138/LB: Upper Garrington Farmhouse, Bekesbourne Lane, Ickham Alterations to stable building in connection with conversion of upper floor to self contained annexe. **Applicant: Mr D Lench** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/12/00146/FUL: Chislet Court Farm, Church Lane, Chislet, CT3 4DU Extension to existing barn for grain storage and farm equipment.
Applicant: Mr Michael Wilkinson Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/12/00155/FUL: Oak House, The Former St Augustine's Hospital, Chartham, CT4 7TU Conversion of redundant hospital to education purposes (Canterbury Steiner School). **Applicant: The Canterbury Steiner School** Reason: Major development.
CA/12/00155/FUL: 69 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BN Erection of outbuilding and demolition of existing outbuilding.
Applicant: Mr David Ferry Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/12/00156/FUL: 45 North Lane, Canterbury, CT2 7EF Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/09/00358/FUL for two-storey extension to side of dwelling (Revised scheme), in order to extend the time limit for implementation.
Applicant: John Roberts Builders Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00160/OUT: Land adjacent Thanet Way, Whitstable Development comprising public open space, church, indoor sports facilities, business park and associated landscaping and access (Outline application). **Applicant: Clague LLP** Reason: Contrary to development plan and major.
CA/12/00174/FUL: Unit 35, Rose Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2SJ Change of use from retail (Use Class A1) to financial and professional services (Use Class A2). **Applicant: Kent Reliance Provident Society** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/12/00326/ADV: Unit 35, Rose Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2SJ Non-illuminated fascia sign and hanging sign to front elevation.
Applicant: Kent Reliance Provident Society Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 26 March 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
 Friday 2 March 2012

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF A DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH ARTICLE 5 APPLIES

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has made a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 9am and 1.30pm on Saturday.

You have the right to make representations or objections in respect of the Direction. Any such representations or objections must be made in writing to the Head of Planning Services, Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS, within 28 days from the 5 March 2012.

It is proposed that the Direction comes into force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice on 9 April 2012

FIRST SCHEDULE

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

SCHEDULE 2 PART 5 - CARAVAN SITES

Class A

The use of the land, other than a building, as a caravan site in the circumstances referred to in paragraph A.2.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 6 - AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS

Class A - Development on units of 5 hectares or more

- Works for the erection, extension or alteration of a building; or
- any excavation or engineering operations which are reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within that unit.

Class B - Development on units of less than 5 hectares

- the extension or alteration of an agricultural building;
- the installation of additional or replacement plant or machinery;
- the provision, rearrangement or replacement of a sewer, main, pipe, cable or other apparatus;
- the provision, rearrangement or replacement of a private way;
- the provision of a hard surface;
- the deposit of waste; or
- the carrying out of any of the following operations in connection with fish farming, namely, repairing ponds and raceways; the installation of grading machinery, seration equipment or flow meters and any associated channel; the dredging of ponds; and the replacement of tanks and nets, where the development is reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within the unit.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 7 - FORESTRY BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS

Class A

The carrying out on land used for the purposes of forestry, including afforestation, of development reasonably necessary for those purposes consisting of :-

- works for the erection, extension or alteration of a building;
- the formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways;
- operations on that land, or on land held or occupied with that land, to obtain the materials required for the formation, alteration or maintenance of such ways;
- other operations (not including engineering or mining operations).

SECOND SCHEDULE

A parcel of land having an area of some 0.9 hectares to the north of Ashurst Hill, Ashurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent .

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
 Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated: 3 March 2012

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND
CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

- The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
- The application is for a Major Development.
- The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
- The application does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan.
- This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING
APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 19 MARCH 2012

SW/10/1419:

Redevelopment of part of site known as Milton Creek comprising new retail (Class A1) supermarket (totalling up to 13,420 sqm) with undercroft parking, A1 units of varying sizes (totalling up to 8,545 sqm), and an A1/A3 unit (totalling 185 sqm), car parking spaces, associated servicing and bridge access - Land at Milton Creek/Eurolink/Crown Quay Lane, SITTINGBOURNE - REASONS 3,4,5 & 6

SW/12/0061:

Erection of two storey side extension to enhance existing accommodation and provide accommodation with roof void - 5 Travers Gardens, BREDGAR - REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/0140:

Retrospective planning permission for ancillary stable accommodation extension - Sunnyside Farm, Munsore Lane, BORDEN - REASON 3

SW/12/0168 &

SW/12/0171:

Proposed relocation of vehicular access, including gates and wall to new access. Decommissioning of existing vehicular access, and construction of brick wall and including timber gate. Proposed garage - Teynham Court, Conyer Road, TEYNHAM - REASON 2

SW/12/0173:

Extension to east elevation to provide retail area, viewing gallery and staff facilities - Saddlesdane, Badlesmere, FAVERSHAM - REASON 1

SW/12/0174:

The provision of improved access for the disabled by way of new ramps externally, new gated access to the churchyard and new entrance to the church building with level threshold - St Barnabas Church, The Street, BOUGHTON - REASON 1

SW/12/0178:

Replacement of front door and windows - 40 Abbey Street, FAVERSHAM - REASON 1

SW/12/0194:

Variation of condition (ii) of SW/94/588 to allow permit 10 month occupancy from 1st March to 3rd January in the following calendar year - Hazeldene Close, Hazeldene Chalet Park, EASTCHURCH - REASON 3

SW/12/0200:

Conservation Area Consent for demolition of 1 brick & asbestos cement sheeting clad building. Demolition of 1 timber building, 1 steel ramp to be removed - Queenborough Shipyard, South Street, QUEENBOROUGH - REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/0205:

Application under S.73 of the Town and Country Planning Act to amend condition 6 of planning application SW/09/0573 (reserved matters approval for 18 units at Former Sheppey Hospital) to allow for less onerous requirement for materials - Former Sheppey Hospital (Plots 1-18 and Parish Office), Wards Hill Road, MINSTER - REASON 3

SW/12/0217:

Demolition and replacement of existing building for use as a tractor and implement store - Land r/o 24 Wallbridge Lane, UPCHURCH - REASONS 3 & 4

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

Notice is hereby given that Boyd Collins of The Railway Tavern has applied to Gravesham Borough Council for the Variation of provision of live music from Monday to Sunday 7pm till 11.30pm for the premises The Railway Tavern situated at Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent DA13 0HP.

A register of licence applications can be inspected at <http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/licensing> or at the Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU (tel. 01474 337334 by appointment with the licensing team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, given in detail the grounds objection by the 21st March 2012.

The council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that the identity remains anonymous.

Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the licensing panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representation must relate to one of the four licensing objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representation will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

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 contact the Kent registration service on
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For advertising announcement
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 Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

CELORO

Craig Celoro and Laura Teague would like to announce the birth of their son Frankie Craig Celoro on 26th January 2012 weighing 6lb 14oz

CRAIG

Millie Savannah Craig born on 18th February 2012, weighing 7lb 3oz. Daughter to Robert and Charlee.

FOSTER

David and Lauren are pleased to announce the birth of Joseph Freddie on 29th January 2012 at home. A brother for Jacob.

HOCKLEY

Joanne and David Hockley celebrate the birth of their son Harry Frederick Hockley born on 30th January 2012

HUCKS

Louise and Robert Hucks celebrate the birth of their daughter Madison Kaye Hucks on 5th February 2012 weighing 5lbs 9oz.

KENDALL

Jessica and Gavin Kendall celebrate the birth of their son Dylan Jesse Kendall on 12th January 2012.

MACKENZIE

Blake William Jordan Mackenzie born on the 10th February 2012 weighing 6lb 6oz, to the proud parents Jordan and Stacey.

WADE

Reece born on 3rd February 2012 weighing 7lbs 6oz. Son to Kelly and Martin.

YOUNG

Milo Frederick arrived on 2nd February 2012 weighing 7lb 12oz. Delighted parents Daniel and Laura

DEATHS

BAYNTON

Elizabeth died peacefully on the 9th of February at the Heart of Kent Hospice

MOSS

In loving memory Kathleen Elizabeth Moss passed away peacefully on January 31st. Love always your family. xxx.

PANTELI

Much loved Elli Panteli, wife of Theo, daughter of George and Niki Florides and beloved Mother of Antony, George and Nicholas. Adored by her three grandchildren, brothers, family, friends and local community. Sadly passed away on 11 February 2012 at home. Elli will be deeply missed by the many people whose lives she touched.

To advertise in this section



01303 817111



The Beat goes on as Ranking Roger and son take to the gigging road

SEE PAGE 49



RABBIT RAVE

Chas is bringing his old favourites to The Orchard

SEE PAGE 54

Kent Weekend

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SEE PAGE 53



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THE INTERVIEW

Ranking Roger

A NEW musical movement washed over the UK in the late 70s and early 80s. As punk burnt itself out and before the new romantics slotted in their shoulder-pads, there was a window of opportunity and ska took over the scene.

At the forefront of this movement were the Birmingham outfit The Beat, with their charismatic 'toaster' Ranking Roger.

Real name Roger Charlery, the dreadlocked MC still tours with a slightly-amended version of the band that includes his son, Ranking Junior.

In 2005, Junior appeared on The Ordinary Boys smash hit Boys Will Be Boys, prompting a resurgence in ska. And its popularity has been growing, with modern artists incorporating the ska sound into their music.

Roger said: "I truly don't think 2 Tone music was ever given enough time to become too commercialised, like punk was.

"Punk kind of sold out, whereas 2 Tone didn't. The ska theme peaked for a little while and then it went back underground. People sort of said 'Oh well, ska is dead - let's bring in the new romantic era'. It never got over-exposed, so people didn't get bored of it.

"Over the years it has been incorporated into other people's music in the charts and slowly found its way back, so people accept it again.

"They are going back to the original ska stuff to learn what it is all about so they can turn it into the futuristic sound it has become."

The group tour all year round, headlining ska festivals across the UK and Europe, including a visit to the Skabour event in Folkestone.

"It's still really prominent down in Kent," said Roger. "Every time we play down in Margate we get a good crowd, so I guess we do still have a big following in the area.

"It's a positive memory for people because it is largely based on rhythm and blues anyway, and that is where pop music comes from. People can still soak it up quite easily."

Alongside former guitarist and frontman Dave Wakeling, Roger helped pen timeless classics like Mirror In The Bathroom and Ranking Full Stop. Wakeling moved to America and created The American Beat, but rumours of reunions often resurface.

Roger, 52, said: "Everywhere The Beat play, it seems to be alive and kicking, but if ska is alive and kicking I don't know yet.

"Over the last couple of years there has been a big resurgence, but we have just kept on going regardless. People call us a ska band, but we don't call us a ska band because our music is so diverse - we do punk, reggae, soul and

Forget the mirror, The Beat look to the future

Ranking Roger talks to **Joe Bill** about the popularity of ska music and how the band are enjoying their extensive tour schedule



calypso. There are probably only two real ska tunes from The Beat because it opens up a different dimension to our audience."

The group went in at No 6 in the charts in 1979 with their cover version of Smokey Robinson's Tears Of A Clown.

But it is their 1980 top-five hit Mirror In The Bathroom that remains a favourite with both the crowd and Roger himself.

He said: "For me that song is The Beat's sound and that is what we were all about. It might not be the strongest tune, but it is one which represents us best... it is timeless.

"If Mirror In The Bathroom had never come out, and a band released it 20 years in the future, it would probably go down just as well."

The group's fan base is almost as diverse as The Beat's music, with demand for live gigs coming from around the globe. This means members have to stay in top condition to keep up with the shows.

"Towards the end of last year we were getting tired. We gigged all year and only had about 10 days off - it was just about humanly bearable to do that. But now we have had five weeks off we are ready again.

"We have just been to Holland, Belgium, Dubai and Qatar for some gigs to warm up.

"We have learned from our mistakes for the next tour. No matter how long you have been doing it, when you have some time off, it takes two or three gigs to get back into the flow."

But with 25-year-old Ranking Junior, real name Matthew Murphy, on board, The Beat have a youthful spring in their step for the continued resurgence.

Roger said: "He is good for bringing in the younger generation. We get a lot of older heads, but we get a lot of people from 17 upwards and sometimes younger at festivals. They love the music. They love him."

At the height of their fame, The Beat commanded a place on tour with the likes of David Bowie, The Specials and REM, but Roger still has a soft spot for two particular bands.

He said: "Definitely, always, eternally dedicated to The Clash. They were the best people to be on tour with - we did two or three with them. The Police were great, too.

"We hung out with those guys a lot - I learned loads. They were the biggest in their categories and totally different bands but very grounded people, you would be surprised. Sting, Joe Strummer and Mick Jones were and are so grounded. It influenced me because it made me realise that this is the way to be. If you let the fame go to your head, you can't see anything for the clouds. That is very important."

Finally, Roger revealed the origin of his famous moniker:

He said: "I was 12, I started MCing and all the DJs at the time had Ranking in front of their name to differentiate between them and the singer, so I put it in front of my name.

"At school we had to wear uniform, so on the back of my jacket I wrote 'Ranking Roger, peace love and unity'. That was my life ambition to promote it, and I have done ever since."

■ The Beat will play the Whitlives stage at the East Quay in Whitstable on Friday, March 9. Visit www.whitlives.co.uk.

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FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

Jump onboard The Ship for some excellent pub grub with your pint

It has to be said that Herne Bay is a little lacking in good places to eat. Unlike trendy Whitstable five miles down the coast, the streets have few independent restaurants and even the well-known Italian pizza and pasta chains are nowhere to be found.

However, one place you can definitely get a good meal also happens to be one of the oldest buildings in town.

The Ship on the eastern extreme of the seafront has been a pub for hundreds of years.

Its reputation has been up and down over the years, but since it reopened in 2010 under new management it has really upped its game.

The makeover has certainly made a warm and welcoming atmosphere inside.

The bar sells some real ales and has an extensive wine list. Prices are a little steeper than you might find at other pubs, but the drinks are always served well.

On the night we dined, I enjoyed a pint of Timothy Taylor Gold, which happened to be on tap at the time.

The menu on the chalkboard changes each week. It's nothing exotic but tasty pub food served to a high standard.

I started with pâté and a large hunk of bread. My partner went for the soup,

RESTAURANT REVIEW



which on this occasion was an extremely tasty vegetable.

For my main I had a steak served with mashed potato. It was nicely cooked and good to see the chef was willing to come out and serve us when the other staff became too busy.

One good thing about the menu at The Ship is that there is normally a good vegetarian option.

On the night we dined, my partner had a veggie spaghetti Bolognese. It may not sound exciting, but it was very tasty and for once I felt I may have made the wrong choice. There was plenty of it, too. My partner was stuffed by the

end, so I had no hesitation helping her clear the bowl. On other visits, there has been a nice vegetarian Wellington, while on Sundays a good nut-roast option is available for lunch.

For my dessert I went for the strawberry crème brûlée. To be honest, any kind of crème brûlée will always prove a winner with me. My partner just had a coffee, being stuffed with her main course.

Prices are roughly what you would expect for good pub grub. Starters are about £5, with mains ranging from £8-£15.

It's a nice place to eat, too. In the winter you can watch waves crash against the sea wall in a gale while you tuck into your meal snugly inside. In summer, meanwhile, you can see families soaking up the sun, walking by with the children carrying their plastic buckets and spades.

So if you're looking for a good-quality pub in a good location you'll find The Ship hard to beat and it's nice to think it is carrying on a tradition that has been going so long.

Ed Hill

■ The Ship, 17 Central Parade,
Herne Bay CT6 5HT
telephone: 01227 366636
email: www.theshiphernebay.com

FARMERS' MARKETS

DARTFORD: The market began in November 2005 at the request of Dartford Borough Council and has been running since then. It is held in the pedestrian area of Dartford high street and is open to the public between 10am and 2pm on the third Friday of the month.

EGERTON: This farmers' market has now been trading every Friday from 2pm to 4.30pm for almost five years, with most of the original stall-holders still selling at the market in the Millennium Hall.

MERSHAM: Featuring produce from the immediate area is the market now held at the Farriers Arms, Mersham Forstal, between 2.30pm and 6.30pm on every second and fourth Friday of the month.

MEOPHAM: This farmers' market has been operating since July 2004 in the overflow car-park of the Meopham fitness and tennis centre on the first Sunday of the month from 9am to 12.30pm.

HILDENBOROUGH: Every Tuesday in St John's Church Centre the Hildenborough farmers' market has an average of 20 stalls each week offering a wide range of fresh local produce of high quality at competitive prices.

IWADE: The village-hall farmers' market opened in February 2009; it takes place on the first Sunday of the month from 10am to 1pm, offering seasonal local produce.

■ For more information on farmers' markets around the county, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk

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FOOD & DRINK

Mother's Day: Six of the Best



The Cherry Tree Sittingbourne

Why here...

Under new ownership and recently reopened, this spacious and friendly family restaurant offers fresh home-cooked food, with full carvery every weekend. Very child-friendly and plenty of parking.

On the menu...

Treat Mum to the carvery with turkey, beef and pork, fresh vegetables and all the trimmings. Cost is £7.99 pp and £4.99 per child. A light-bite menu is also available. Mum gets a free glass of wine.

How to book...

1 Canterbury Road,
Sittingbourne ME10 4SG
phone: 01795 436767
web: www.jacdanjoe.co.uk

Where best to treat Mum? So many choices

FLOWERS are appreciated, chocolates are charming, but do you not think that mothers around the county deserve a little more this year?

Organising a meal out for your mum is high on the agenda in 2012 with so many eateries in Kent offering so much good food.

There are a number of up-and-coming restaurants just itching to be tried out on this celebratory day, while the established bistros hope for another springtime boom day.

Remember to keep it subtle to preserve the surprise. Ask Mother what her favourite meal is, ask where the preferred setting would be, and choose accordingly.

"It is not as easy as all that!" I hear you cry. Well, actually it is! In Kent we are blessed with

diverse settings and even more diverse menus.

Take Mum on a stroll through our beautiful woodlands before retiring to the pub for a top meal featuring local game. Skip stones along our beaches before an appetising meal of fresh Whitstable oysters. Dover sole or another of our many Kentish fish dishes.

Or even go for a drive through the rolling hills and open fields of our springtime countryside before settling down to Romney Marsh lamb with locally-sourced vegetables.

Drinks are not exactly hard to come by either as Kent sports its own vineyards as well as Biddenden cider, not to mention Britain's oldest brewery, Shepherd Neame.

And if none of this takes your fancy, try one of Kent's modern city restaurants.

Here are six great venues...



The Acorn Inn Birchington

Why here...

The Acorn Inn is a friendly, family-run pub in the heart of the seaside village of Birchington-on-Sea. Hosts Peter and Cath offer a warm welcome to a pub that has existed since 1748.

On the menu...

Treat your mother to the famous Sunday roast. Its popularity means booking is necessary. Choose from beef, lamb or turkey; one course £7.95, two courses £9.95, three courses £11.95.

How to book...

Acorn Inn, 6 Park Lane,
Birchington CT7 0AW
phone: 01843 841196
Served from midday-4.30pm



London Beach Tenterden

Why here...

The London Beach country hotel, spa and golf club boasts a charming and sophisticated restaurant with a fantastic menu that sticks to the principle of serving only Kentish produce. Just one of the venue's many attractions is the opportunity for diners to look across panoramic views of the beautiful Weald of Kent while enjoying a meal. The venue is easy to find on

the A28 Ashford Road and offers ample parking on site.

On the menu...

The London Beach is a wonderful treat for Mother's Day lunch. All produce is fresh and sourced locally wherever possible. The Special Menu is exceptional and offers a range of delicious dishes from expert chefs – all at reasonable prices.

How to book...

London Beach Country Hotel,
Ashford Road, Tenterden
TN30 6HX3 (phone: 01580 766279; email: enquiries@londonbeach.com)

The Black Pig Staple

Why here...

The Black Pig is a fine 16th-century timbered building with a large garden. Its modern comfortable restaurant has an extensive range of home-cooked meals, using locally-sourced food.

On the menu...

There is a set menu for Mother's Day on March 18, with a fine selection of starters, mains and desserts. You can have two courses for £14.50 or three courses for £19.

How to book...

Barnsole Road, Staple,
near Canterbury CT3 1LE
phone: 01304 813000
web: www.theblackpig.co.uk



Chives on the Green Barham

Why here...

Broome Park is a beautiful place to come to. Everyone who steps inside feels the warmth of the building and surroundings. Coupled with the great food, everyone leaves with a smile. This a family-run company that has been in operation for more than 20 years. It owned the Waltham Court Hotel from 1988-2004 and has been at Broome Park since November 2011.

On the menu...

Try the tortellini of roast onion, feta and basil on shaved fennel with basil and lime cream sauce. Follow with roast lamb rump on a medley of lentils, parsley and leek with a tomato and Cabernet sauce. To finish, ginger pudding garnished with praline and honeycomb. Two courses cost £20, three courses £25.

How to book...

Chives at Broome Park,
Canterbury Road, Barham
CT4 6QX (phone: 01227 832637; email: broomepark@chivescaterers.co.uk)



Walnut Tree Aldington

Why here...

Warm, friendly pub and restaurant in the lovely village of Aldington serving affordable lunches Monday to Friday from midday-2pm, with starters at £1.50, mains at £3.50 and desserts at £1.50.

On the menu...

Sunday lunch £6.50 from midday-8pm, choice of five meats with fresh veg and Yorkshire puddings. Mother's Day lunches are £9.95 for two courses – also served on Saturday 17.

How to book...

The Walnut Tree Inn,
Forge Hill, Aldington
TN25 7DT
phone: 01233 720298

FOOD & DRINK **Flavours of Kent**

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

The first and last place to take your mum for a special dinner

FRESH, home-made food and a good atmosphere will be the order of the day on Mothering Sunday at the First And Last in Herne Common. With an extensive knowledge of the trade, as well as a top chef in the kitchen, owner David Sullivan is achieving his goal of championing traditional, quality pub meals in a friendly ambience.

He said: "The pub has always been known for its good food because it has always been the same chef, Martyn Beer, pictured bottom left.

"Martyn sets the menus – whatever he wants to cook is what comes out of the kitchen. I don't interfere with the food at all. The menus change when he wants to.

"The chef's knowledge of food and different cuisines has got to be used. It's good having your steak-and-ale pies, but things like the Burmese curry you won't see in many other pubs."

The First And Last is highlighting the importance of quality food ahead of Mother's Day on March 18.

David said: "At least 90 per cent of my produce is local. The vegetables, because we are obviously in the middle of Kent, and I was using a local butcher's shop for a while, but the quality of the meat went down, so I stopped. I am very fussy – I want the best.

"It has to be proper quality at a good price."

The eatery is completed by two stove fires, traditional beams and real ales all adding to the warm and cosy feel. There is also a function room available for big occasions and parties.

And word of the First And Last's philosophy is spreading, with more diners heading to Herne Common for a top meal.

"We average around 90 covers on a Sunday afternoon, which is a lot of food," said David.

"We have 12 permanent staff, who are very good. The food is what the pub is known for and the chef is brilliant. I hope to make it into a pub that when people drive past they think 'Let's go in there'.

"It's the little changes and people are starting to notice."

David has been in charge at the historic watering hole for the past year and is looking to make another success of this, his latest venture.

The 44-year-old has had plenty of experience of knowing what makes a good pub, with five generations and more than 200 years of publican family history behind him.

He said: "I was born in a pub – this is what I do. I have grown up in pubs all over London. My mum and dad got out of the pub game and moved into a flat when I was about 14.

"Three months later, I moved out. I couldn't hack it, I had only ever lived in pubs and there was just no noise in the flat.

"No creaks or groans from the old buildings, so I moved out and back into the pub with my nan and granddad. I've been in pubs ever since."

The First And Last has undergone a mini transformation during the last year, with small changes making a big difference to visitors' experience.

David said: "The pub is now clean, the atmosphere is right, there is new furniture, a bit of upholstery and I have put fresh food back in.



There is nothing frozen other than the ice-creams!

"The locals are enjoying having their pub back and I just want to let other people find out about us."

The First And Last is just outside Herne Bay in the picturesque village of Herne. It is

surrounded by green fields and perfect for a meal or a relaxing drink in the sunshine.

However, with its cosy interior and toasty bar area, it is also a great location on dark winter evenings and a nice hot meal.

It has good service and quality food, meaning its reputation as a good pub with an excellent



menu has grown substantially during the last 12 months.

So to avoid disappointment, you should book early to make sure of a table on Mother's Day at the First and Last on Sunday, March 18.

■ **The First And Last, Herne Bay**
CT6 7JU (phone 01227 364465).

KENT ATTRACTIONS

Celebration of rural life Lamb fest

Hadlow College, Tonbridge
Saturday and Sunday,
March 10-11
01732 850551

HADLOW College heralds the arrival of spring with its popular annual lambing weekend. Last year the event attracted more than 10,000 visitors from all over Kent and Sussex, all looking to celebrate the UK's traditional countryside hobbies and pastimes. Outdoor fans will be able to attend lambing-shed talks as well as take tours of Hadlow College's specialist animal-management unit. During the weekend there will be a number of attractions including sheepdog trials, dog-grooming demonstrations and tractor- and trailer-rides



as well as countryside sports demonstrations. The Hadlow site is directly off the A26 on the Tonbridge side of Hadlow village. The show will run from 11am

to 4pm each day. Ticket prices are £4 for adults, and £10 for a family of two adults and up to three children. Visit www.hadlow.ac.uk for more information.

Lewis Carroll classic brought to the stage Alice In Wonderland

The Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne
Saturday, April 21
01795 471140
www.avenuetheatre.co.uk

THE Avenue Theatre in Sittingbourne is hosting a new adaptation of the classic children's novel Alice In Wonderland. The Edge Theatre School will bring a lively stage version of Lewis Carroll's famous title to Swale for two showings on Saturday, April 21, at 2pm and 6pm. For those who have never read it or seen the recent film version starring Johnny Depp, the story centres on inquisitive youngster Alice, who falls down a rabbit-hole only to find herself in another world full of adventures. Will Alice ever escape? Will she ever find out what the white rabbit was late for? Classic characters such as the March Hare, the Mad Hatter, the homicidal Queen Of Hearts and the troublesome Cheshire Cat will all be up to their tricks in an entertaining family show. Tickets are priced at £6.



Be inspired by blooms Gardening open days

Godinton House, Ashford
01233 620773
www.godinton-house-gardens.co.uk

GODINTON House has two garden open days, on Sunday, March 25, and Sunday, April 1, in support of the National Gardens Scheme. The Godinton gardens are now open for the season. At this time of year you can enjoy the bones of a garden's design as well as the massed drifts of daffodils in the Wild Garden. There is also the individual perfection of a crocus in the Alpine House. As the gardeners prepare the plants for the new season, visitors will take home some inspiration to get them started on their own gardens.

Walk and talk like animals Theme days

Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks
0844 8424647
www.aspinallfoundation.org

TWO themes will dominate events at two of Kent's premier wild animal parks this month. Visitors to Port Lympne, near Hythe, will learn about adaptation in the animal

kingdom, with special events, talks and activities. Animal director Adrian Harland said: "Animals are specialists at adjusting to their surroundings. Why do gibbons have such long arms and why do elephants have wrinkly skin?" At Howletts, near Canterbury, March's theme is An Animal Choir. Animal director Neil Spooner said: "Visitors will be able to learn how animals communicate and why they snort, cough or hoot." There will be trails, talks and quiz sheets.



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BRITANNIA THEATRE EVENTS



Friday 16th March 2012 @ 7:30pm

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Britannia Theatre, Dickens World, Chatham, ME4 4LL

Box Office: 01634 890421 • www.dickensworld.co.uk

Time for Tea

A new 'Good Old Days' live show

Afternoon cream tea, scones, lashings of laughs and songs of yesteryear to sing along to.

Show only is included in the Dickens World standard admission price.

*£5 extra for cream tea, scones & cucumber sandwiches

Next Show **Wednesday 21st March 2012**

For more information visit www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421



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Friday 30th March 2012
Friday 27th April 2012

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For times and films, please call the film line on **0871 22 44 007** or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421



EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email
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Sweets for you all The Searchers

**Hazlitt Arts Centre,
Maidstone**

Sunday, March 18
www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

POP-ROCKERS The Searchers are still going strong 50 years after their formation. Next month they bring their skiffle sound to the Hazlitt Arts Centre in Maidstone.

The group were first signed up in the early 60s and belted out their debut hit Sweets For My Sweet, which went to No 1 and was described by John Lennon at the time as "the best record out of Liverpool".

A run of top records followed, including Needles And Pins, Don't Throw Your Love Away and Someday We're Gonna Love Again.

In 1981 the group played before the Queen in the Royal Variety Performance. Phone the box office on 01622 758611 or visit www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

Have a right old knees-up Chas Hodges

The Orchard, Dartford

Sunday, March 18, 7.30pm
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk
01322 220000

CHAS Hodges, best known as one half of the popular cockney duo Chas And Dave, is coming to The Orchard Theatre in Dartford. The pair entertained punters

for years with songs such as Gertcha, London Girls and, of course, Rabbit.

In this special one-night performance the geezer will entertain the audience with all the best-loved hits, including The Sideboard Song, Margate, Snooker Loopy and Ain't No Pleasing You.

Special guest Lonnie Donegan Jnr and his band will be paying tribute to his late father and his many hits, such as My Old Man's A Dustman, Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavour, Battle Of New Orleans and Putting On The Style.



Weddings in the spotlight What a show!

Quex Park, Birchington

Sunday, March 4
www.quexmuseum.org
01843 842168

THE 2012 Quex Spring Wedding Fayre promises to be an event that will inspire all brides-to-be.

An eclectic display of more than 45 exhibits ranging from dresses, cakes, jewellery and photography to a range of wedding cars is available to view.

The wedding and functions room, the Hannah Dining Suite, will be available to view and dedicated wedding consultants will be on hand to assist you in tailoring your most memorable day.

The highlight of the show is a grand prize draw, offering couples the opportunity to win free venue styling. In addition, everyone who registers on the day has the chance to win gift vouchers worth £200.

Entry is free to all and the show is open from 11am to 4pm on Sunday, March 4.



Erosion and Alzheimer's Poignant play

Theatre Royal Margate

Tuesday, March 6, 7.30pm
01227 787 787
www.theatreroyalrmargate.com

FOLLOWING a successful premiere in 2011, the play 1 Beach Road is being taken on a UK spring tour, which includes a stop in Margate. This production from the

award-winning RedCape Theatre is a tale of friendship, coastal erosion, Alzheimer's, synchronized swimming and trying to turn back the tide. Drawing from true stories of people in Norfolk and from study into Alzheimer's, the play looks at the metaphorical connections between coastal erosion and memory loss. Relentlessly the sea swallows first the road, then the row of bungalows and finally its way to the back door of the bed-and-breakfast at 1 Beach Road, where the inhabitants refuse to budge.



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HOMES

Designers in running for national awards

TWO of kitchen company Krieder's designers have been short-listed for this year's prestigious annual KBB Review Awards, which reflect excellence across the industry.

The final verdict will be given at a ceremony in Birmingham's Metropole Hotel on Monday.

Both designers work out of Krieder's Tunbridge Wells studio in Chapel Place, creating contemporary kitchens for their clients

throughout the UK and beyond.

Chris Etheridge is in the final four for Designer Of The Year in the under-£30,000 kitchen category, while Justin Marley is short-listed in the £30,000 - £50,000 group.

Both categories reward the skill of the kitchen designer not only for aesthetic and practical results but also their use of budget, problem-solving and meeting the client's brief.

In selecting the under-

£30,000 short-list, the judges are looking for the way designers have managed to achieve flair and individuality while keeping to reasonable budgets – a genuine skill that is essential for the success of the front-line kitchen retailer.

The judges are particularly interested in where the designer has spent money wisely so as to ensure they successfully exceed customer expectations.

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Bars and games rooms boom as more choose to stay home

By Amy Nicholas

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CELEBRITIES may party at chic clubs, restaurants and premieres, but increasingly the hottest entertainment destination for the rest of us is our own home.

Cinemas, party rooms, bars and games rooms are now considered must-haves in high-end homes. And while most people don't have the budget for such lavish spaces, it doesn't stop us embracing the philosophy that staying in is the new going out and looking for kit to make it possible.

"The world has moved on in terms of the way people use their homes," said designer Tara Bernerd, of Tara Bernerd & Partners. "Of course, those who can afford luxury want entertainment areas – cinema room, games room with a pool table and a 'nightclub' zone so they can effortlessly and instantly enjoy their often quite limited leisure time.

"Most people now regard their homes as little kingdoms, where they can demonstrate their taste, be cocooned and amused when they're alone or with family, or entertain in style when the mood takes them."

Home bars have shed their naff reputation. A

built-in bar was a famous and much-mocked fixture in the Trotters' lounge in TV's *Only Fools and Horses*, but now high-street giants Marks & Spencer and John Lewis both have sophisticated ranges of drinks cabinets and trolleys.

Socialising indoors means you can tailor an occasion exactly to suit you and your guests. This could potentially save you money, not to mention freeing hosts from concerns over drinking and driving.

"Men may be more interested in gadgets, gizmos and toys for a games room, while women are keen to have areas where they can relax and entertain, such as cinema rooms and bar areas," said Bernerd.

Convenience and privacy are motivating factors for those who already have the luxury gyms, pools and spas and see separate entertainment zones as complementary to those facilities. But she points out that many people want multi-functional spaces.

"One of our aims is to ensure these rooms are versatile and have

just as much atmosphere and appeal when they are used as intimate, relaxing spaces as when they're used for entertaining groups of friends or for parties," said Bernerd.

The rooms themselves can, of course, be tailored to specific interests.



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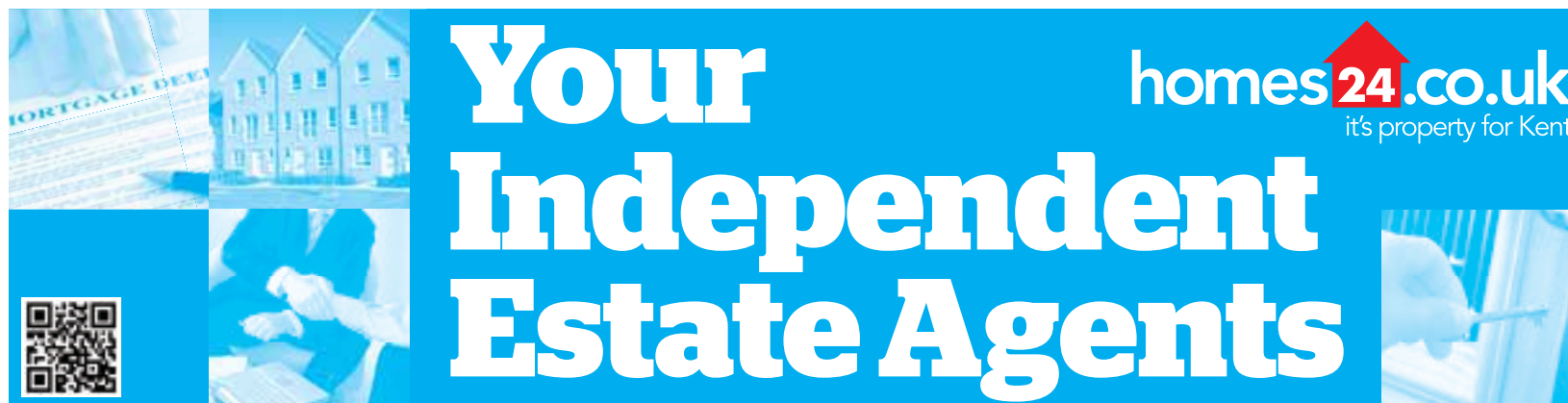
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Hi-tech home offering style and space

A VERY impressive luxury house situated just a short distance from the scenic town centre of Hythe is available to buy.

It offers sea views to the front and is an extremely spacious accommodation. The house is on the market with local agency Champion and Company, with an asking price of £825,000.

The home includes a nice porch, spacious entrance hall, living room, dining room, study and family room. There is also a fitted Schmidt kitchen and breakfast room, with a number of integrated appliances and attractive acrylic stone work-tops.

The house also offers a utility room, shower room, master bedroom with en-suite bathroom and shower and a luxurious walk-in dressing room, as well as access to the south-facing balcony.

The second bedroom is also en-suite, with

walk-in dressing room and access to a large balcony. Three further bedrooms, a family bathroom, detached double garage and electric-gated entry with video security system are just some of the top features.

The landscaped gardens include large decked sun terrace and smaller decked area with a sunken tub.

Other notable features include uPVC double-glazing windows with lockable blinds, under-floor heating to all groundfloor areas, gas-fired central heating (first-floor heating), alarm system connected to the garage, multi-room entertainment system with built-in speakers, networked satellite TV points, central vacuum system with remote waste-collection point in the garage and extensive external lighting and sockets.

For more details or to arrange a viewing, call Champion and Company on 01303 260666.



CHAMPION & CO

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HYTHE/SALTWOOD



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£645,000 Freehold

HYTHE/SALTWOOD



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HYTHE



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HYTHE



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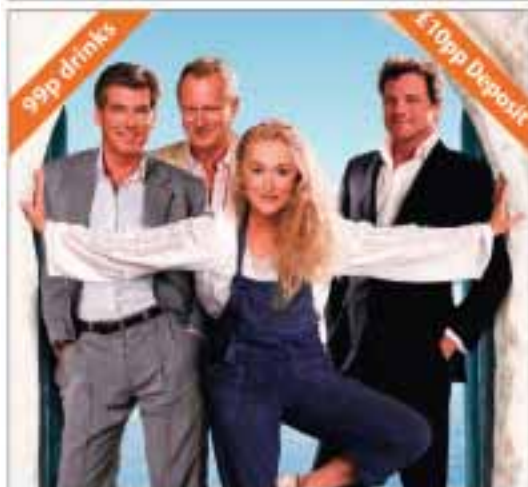


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- Loch Ness cruise



First **GEAR**
MOTURING NEWS

- The Minivan is back and cool as ever
- Aygo launches Fire and Ice extremes
- Chevrolet offers new registration savings



Vauxhall takes to the racetrack to fine-tune latest Corsa

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MERCEDES-BENZ liked to call the original B-Class a compact sports tourer, but you felt somebody on high had ordered “Call it what you like, but don’t call it a people carrier or MPV!”.

Except it was just that – tall, boxy and versatile but not particularly nice to look at or drive, particularly if you were paying Mercedes money and expecting to cut a dash.

However, the German premium marque has got it right this time with the second generation car, officially in showrooms this weekend and already generating far more interest than its predecessor ever did.

The new B has more style and handling panache to earn the compact sports tourer tag; incredibly, it’s five centimetres lower and exceptionally aerodynamic while offering even more of the space and versatility of the old 2005-2011 car.

Priced from £21,290, quality and technology is also a major step forward:

“No model change in the history of Mercedes-Benz has ever seen so many new developments introduced in one fell swoop,” according to M-B.

And this is one of those rare occasions when a manufacturer’s hype doesn’t need to be swallowed with a pinch of salt.

Mercs have always been at the top for looking after occupants at crunch time, but the B-Class breaks new ground with a radar-based collision warning system as standard.

This weights up the brakes in anticipation if it detects that the car is too close to the vehicle in front and alerts the possibly distracted driver. The Pre Safe system pioneered on the S-Class range flagship is also offered as an extra, delivering a whole raft of further protection.

The cabin is airy, with excellent headroom and fold flat rear seats for maximum cargo capacity, while four equipment packages are offered for owner customisation: Chrome, Sports, Exclusive and Night – it’s a sexier proposition than last time around.

Practical car buyers are also usually people with an eye on ecology and economy and the B-Class won’t disappoint, with all-new low emission, green powertrains with stop/start for added economy in congested conditions.

There’s a new direct injection turbocharged four-cylinder petrol engine series, a new diesel, six-speed manual gearboxes as standard and even a VW-style dual clutch seven-speed transmission that allows the car to be driven auto or manual, but with manual transmission economy. All wear M-B’s eco-friendly BlueEfficiency branding.

I tried a flagship B200 CDI in smart Sport trim, fitted with the dual-clutch box and loaned courtesy of the Lookers Mercedes-Benz group, which has sites at Maidstone, Tonbridge, Ashford and Canterbury. The gearbox is seamless and impressive, though adds £1,450 to the £24,710 price of the manual version.



MERCEDES B-CLASS

- Price:
From £21,290
- Driving appeal:
★★★★
- Image:
★★★★★
- Space:
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- Value:
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- Running costs:
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- How green?:
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‘A’ grade B-Class this time



NEW IMAGE:
The revamped B-Class is a great improvement

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... the fact that versatility has to cost this much, but then again, why shouldn't MPV buyers have a premium option?

NOT SURE

... there will be enough premium car buyers who will want the everyday image of an MPV... even if it is a good-looking one.

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Expect a Swift conversion

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

I'VE become a Suzuki convert.

Apart from producing good cut-price off-road-ers, I used to think the Japanese marque produced a lot of dross. A case in point was the Swift supermini – it had none of the elegance of the bird, and Swift it wasn't.

But latter day Swift models have signalled a Suzuki revival: the first new era Swift (2005-2011) resembled the BMW Mini for looks and fun, but was vastly more affordable.

Using admirable 'don't fix it if it ain't broke' thinking, Suzuki has since morphed that car into a slightly bigger second generation model retaining much of its predecessor's styling, but breaking new ground in quality, fit and finish, thereby catching up and surpassing French superminis that used to attract people seeking style and value.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the excellent Swift Sport model, the range flagship at £13,499 and unbeatable in its price class.

It could be even more affordable if Suzuki stripped out some unnecessary extras such as the fancy keyless locking and cruise control and downgraded from climate control to plain air con.

After all, if you're having fun then what's the point of those? It's not as if there haven't been precedents in stripped out, back to basics hot hatchbacks such as the Peugeot Rallye 106 or equivalent Citroen Saxos.

I would draw the line at losing the Swift Sport's alloys though, which make the car look far more expensive than its modest price would suggest.

Inside, the hike in quality on this new generation car is excellent, with supportive sports seats, a well-arranged and durable dashboard, all the Bluetooth/MP3 'toys connectivity' required of a youth-orientated hot hatch, plus a lovely perforated leather sports wheel with audio and cruise controls.

SUZUKI SWIFT 1.6 SPORT: PRICE £13,499

FACT FILE



Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
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WINNING FORMULA:

The latest version of the Suzuki Swift is surprisingly appealing, converting our reviewer to the brand

But is the Swift Sport only a young person's car? I would argue that its appeal stretches across generations, much like the Mini.

For a start, it is not an out and out hot hatch: the free-revving 136PS (135bhp) 1.6-litre petrol engine will take you to 62mph in under nine seconds, but that qualifies it more as a warm hatch rather than a scorcher like the £22,295. Vauxhall Corsa VXR Nurburging (6.6 Seconds) reviewed elsewhere this week.

It also makes it easier to insure (group 19 – the above Corsa group 34) than you might expect, whilst a crisp six-speed gearbox clinches my theory that Suzuki has set out to create a crowd-pleasing sports model to suit all occasions...and owner profiles.

With the tall top gear engaged the Sport will cruise the motorway happily, but it also means there are a lot of other cogs to play with on more engaging roads, and you'll want to change gear

a lot to enjoy blipping the throttle and keeping the revs up.

Pin sharp steering also comes into play, but before the more sober-suited of you turns the page, you would also be impressed with the Sport's ride quality and refinement.

I've criticised some hot hatches for the baggage they bring in terms of poor economy, discomfort and noise for the 90 per cent of traffic conditions we must endure on 'modern' roads, just for the sake of that 10 per cent when you can cut loose a bit. Well, there's none of that with the Sport – it's a crackling little all-rounder that can average more than 40mpg.

The caveats are that it comes only as a three-door – you must look elsewhere in the Swift range (from £10,660) for five-door accessibility – and rear legroom and boot space are average, but it should still make a Suzuki convert out of you, too.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Grand return for Minivan

STYLE can be practical – that's the argument behind the Mini Clubvan Concept, which also revives the classic 1960s Minivan.

We can expect this concept to go all the way too, since the appeal is obvious for firms, couriers or tradesmen keen to project a premium image while making their business calls.

Vehicle-customisation nuts will be rubbing their hands, too.



Aygo to the extremes

TOYOTA has launched flagship Fire (from £9,595) and ioe (from £9,895) models to complete its revitalised Aygo city car range (from £8,495) now arriving in showrooms.

Apart from a visual makeover the other big Aygo news is that the car's 1.0-litre VVT-i engine now emits less than 100g/km CO2 emissions, thereby escaping road tax and the London congestion charge.



Great value from Chevy

CHEVROLET has put down a marker on '12-plate offers with savings of up to £4,000 across the range, plus the brand's usual five-year/100,000-mile warranty.

The versatile Spark 1.0+ city car is selling for £6,975, slashing £1,500 off the usual price, and there are even savings on the impressive newly-launched Aveo supermini (pictured) – a 1.2 LS costs just £8,995.

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Corsa on track with Nurburgring special

1ST DRIVE

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT'S true that genuine hot hatches are rapidly becoming a pointless exercise.

Young customers they appeal to most would normally struggle to insure the most junior car in the same model range, let alone the hottest and most outrageous.

But that's the point in a way, because while our would-be boy racer knows he has no chance of getting his mitts on the turbo nutter model, short of breaking in and pinching it, he can at least enjoy glamour by association if he buys the 1.2-litre cooking version.

And, whisper it, that's largely why Vauxhall has gone to such pains to ensure that its Corsa supermini is in the buying public's eye by producing a super hot hatch version of its class VXR performance model.

Known as the Nurburgring, it comes with an extra 13PS from the 192PS (190bhp) VXR 1.6-litre turbo engine, plus a lot more in the chassis and handling department, though it will set you back a sobering £3,395 more than the standard VXR.

The enthusiast will see this as a price worth paying though, since the Nurburgring logos on the car are not lazy marketing tat; the car chassis really has been tuned on the famous German 'no holds barred' racetrack.

Checking this to the max on a UK road ought

Vauxhall corsa 1.6i: PRICE £22,295



FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How Green?:	★★★
Best rival:	Renault Clio Renaultsport

to be beyond the skills and sensibility of any driver, but the car is impressive, not least because it is a useable everyday piece of kit that just happens to corner on rails, to use a cliché.

This has been achieved by Bilstein dampers and new springs, lightweight yet powerful Brembo brakes, lowering the VXR's already miserly ride height and – where a lot of the extra cash goes – a limited-slip differential on the front axle to tame the leap in bhp.

The standard VXR controls its already prodigious power well to make it one of the better hot hatches to live with on mundane miles, but powerful small and light front-wheel drive cars are never far from the clutches of torque steer, where the driver grapples with a bucking steering wheel as the front wheels scramble to apply far too much horsepower to the road.

The Nurburgring's set-up means a potential spitfire of a car becomes a snarling, but control-

lable, wildcat. It is truly fun to drive, but you also know that it wouldn't hurt to travel several hundred miles in it thanks to real world ride quality and supportive Recaro sports seats, plus a six-speed gearbox for motorway cruising. It's not even particularly noisy at high speeds.

I will be deemed old school though in saying that the interior could do with a splash of 1980s hot hatch colour, with bright braces (seatbelts) and highlights to the wheel and seat trimming.



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Offers valid until 31 March 2012 at participating dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any schemes or other offers. Micra shown has optional metallic paint at £420 inc. VAT. NOTE shown has metallic paint at £420 inc. VAT. Immediate correct at time of going to press. All models shown are for illustrative purposes only and subject to availability. Prices include £310 LBS. This figure is a guide only. Please contact your nearest Nissan dealer for more information. Nissan is a registered trademark of Nissan North America, Inc.

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*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc. PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper; 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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Official government fuel consumption figures in mpg (litres per 100km) for the A-Class range: urban 32.5(8.7)-52.3(5.4), extra urban 45.6(6.2)-72.4(3.9), combined 39.2(7.2)-62.8(4.5) CO2 emissions: 168-118 g/km.

Model featured is a Mercedes-Benz A 160 BlueEFFICIENCY Classic SE at £16,415.00 on-the-road including optional metallic paint at £370.00 and panoramic fixed glass sunroof at £460.00 (on the road price includes VAT, delivery, 12 months' Road Fund Licence, number plates, first registration fee and fuel). *Based on a Mercedes-Benz Agility agreement. Example based on 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may apply. †Payable if you exercise the option to purchase the car. ††Includes optional purchase payment, purchase activation fee and retailer deposit contribution. Quotations available on request for alternative contract lengths and mileages. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. This finance campaign is available on Mercedes-Benz A160 BlueEFFICIENCY Classic SE models ordered and credit approved between 1 January and 31 March 2012 and registered by 31 March 2012. Offer is subject to availability and we reserve the right not to allow this subsidised rate to be used in conjunction with any other offer from the retailer. Credit provided subject to status by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Limited, MK7 8ND. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

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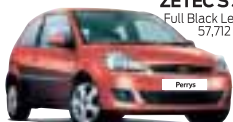
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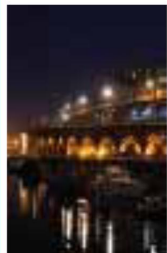
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Models shown are the Alto 1.0 52Z M/T available at £7,785, Splash 1.2 52Z M/T available at £9,254 and Swift 1.2 52Z M/T available at £10,820 on the road (metallic paint available at £380 to £395). Alto, Splash and Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): urban from 48.4 (7.8) to 55.4 (5.1), extra urban from 56.5 (5.0) to 78.5 (3.6), combined from 49.8 (5.7) to 67.3 (4.2). Official CO₂ emissions from 133g/km to 103g/km. Model shown is the Swift Sport 1.6 VVT M/T available at £13,499 on the road (metallic paint included).

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